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Egypt

"Egypt's equivalent to the late Imam Khomeyni" has accused the government of President Husni Mubarak of being anti-Islamic, saying that Mubarak should "suffer the same fate as his assassinated predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat," IRNA reports. The blind Islamic leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, lives in exile and was interviewed in New York City. He accused Washington of being behind all "un-Islamic governments" and wanting to "defeat all Islamic movements." "The future of Egypt will be in the hands of Muslims, who will take the power of the government from the aggressors who hold it now," he said.

Yemen

Most public sector workers held a 24-hour strike on 22 November to protest the postponement of elections, despite an appeal from the ruling parties. AFP reports that 20 ministries, the city's university, schools, and most banks were "paralyzed." According to Sanaa radio, the secretariat of the conference of political parties issued a statement saying that it had studied the situation and that there was "no justification" for the strike.

Pakistan

Police searched and detained supporters of Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto ahead of a planned rally Saturday in Rawalpindi, amid reports of a "crackdown on demonstrators in southwestern Baluchistan," according to AFP. More than 30 people were arrested in Quetta, including the opposition leader in the Baluchistani assembly, Mir Baz Khetran, opposition sources and witnesses said. In Islamabad, police used baton charges to prevent marchers from reaching the parliament building. Bhutto is going ahead with plans for a two-day cross-country train journey, starting Monday, to muster support for the opposition's call for elections.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Spokesmen View Outcome of 7th Round of Talks

JN2111090092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 92 pp 1, 5

["Highlights" of "news briefing" given by spokespersons for Arab and Israeli delegations at the end of the seventh round of bilateral peace talks in Washington on Thursday, 19 November 1992]

[Text]

Jordanian spokesman

In his second press briefing for the seventh round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, Jordanian spokesperson Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said the Israeli and Jordanian delegations had made "good progress" towards reaching an agreement on the agenda for their negotiations. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir stressed that the two sides are close to agreement but are "not yet there." He explained that while broad principles are in place, differences still exist over wording (in the language of the agenda items) on some issues.

These differences were relayed to the Israeli government, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said. In the meantime, the two sides have engaged in informal meetings on energy, water and the environment, said Dr. al- Mu'ashshir, pointing out that the two sides cannot begin real and serious negotiations until the agenda is finalized.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said there had been no agreement on a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan but rather the two sides had been near agreement on an agenda that sets the ground for negotiations, which will lead to a peace treaty after issues (on the agenda) are resolved in a satisfactory manner and in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement. He stressed that Jordan will at no point enter into a separate peace treaty with Israel.

In response to a question on whether or not Jerusalem is included either explicitly or implicitly as an issue on the agenda, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir reiterated the Jordanian position on the issue, saying Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and as such the implementation of Resolutions 242 includes withdrawal from East Jerusalem. "(Resolution) 242 is on the agenda in all its aspects," he said. He said that the Jordanian-Israeli track is not "negotiating Jerusalem" because that is an issue which, as agreed with the Palestinians, is left up to the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the text cannot be called an official document. "There is as of yet no official text because such a text is not in existence," he said. In response to another question, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: "I am not going to deny or confirm the text until it becomes official."

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said certain changes were introduced to original version of the draft agenda but, he said, these changes do not directly influence the course of the negotiations, but clarify certain items without prejudicing the positions of the parties on the issues. The Israelis have not given an official response to these clarifications, he pointed out. Asked to comment on reports of a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and His Majesty King Hussayn, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir denied that such a meeting took place, adding that the Israeli foreign minister had himself stated that the reports were untrue.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the US-proposed date for an eighth round (Dec. 7 to Dec. 17) has been relayed to the Jordanian government. There has been no response from Amman yet, he said.

Asked to comment on the differences between a "peace treaty" and a "peace agreement," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said an agreement is defined by its content and not by its name.

Palestinian spokeswoman

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi opened Thursday's press briefing by stating that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations now face serious difficulties and that the two sides have not been able during this seventh round of bilateral peace talks to find common ground on some issues in the informal discussions. She added that the Israeli way of thinking not only violates the terms of reference of the peace process but also leads to an unworkable, impractical model that does not address the 'real issues of conflict'—a model which she characterized as "apartheid system."

Dr. 'Ashrawi said the model creates a complex system of dual authority and dual responsibility in the occupied territories, which would link the Palestinian side not only to the military government but also to the Israeli ministries and the Israeli government.

The model recognizes Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and "tries to legitimize Israeli settlement control and Israeli annexation of Palestinian territory," Dr. 'Ashrawi said. She said that "it is like creating an equality in terms of rights to the land and, therefore, fragmenting the land while trying to create autonomy for the settlers rather than self-government for the Palestinian people." The Israelis want Palestinian blessing for legitimizing the expropriation and annexation of occupied Palestinian land, she said.

She said the issued of territoriality was a basic issue in the negotiations, adding that the Palestinian side would neither accept the legitimacy of expropriation of land, nor a presence of settlements, nor the exclusion of Jerusalem from the negotiations. "It (the model) is impractical, it is unworkable, and it generates further conflict," Dr. 'Ashrawi resumed.

She said the Palestinian delegation had been very actively involved in searching for a common ground with the Israeli negotiators, but pointed out that no common

ground emerged from their discussions. Regarding the issue of human rights, she said that the Palestinians are "extremely dismayed" that violations continue to occur in the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that although the Israeli side claims that it will dismantle the civil administration, the concept that the Israelis put forward in this round "recreated the civil administration and maintained the military government, but gave it jurisdiction over the settlers and created a civil administration for the settlers themselves."

The Israeli concept does not include a separate economic system for the Palestinians but would merely allow them to "run our own economy provided we do it within the priorities and the framework of the Israeli economy, where we would not damage the Israeli economy," she said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians had given a letter to the Israelis, to be relayed to the Israeli government, expressing "extreme concern" regarding the proposed model. In the letter, the Palestinians also reiterated their commitment to the peace process and their willingness to address Israeli security concerns.

Asked whether the Palestinians will come back for the next round and what they think about a mission by former U.S. secretary of state James Baker to the region, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians would consult with their leadership after the end of this round and then give a final answer following consultations with Arab foreign ministers. She said the Palestinians would welcome a mission by Mr. Baker of any other attempt to push the negotiations forward.

Israeli spokesman Yossi Gal, in a press briefing that was interrupted by an Israeli extremist shouting "Rabin is a traitor" and "O Kahana Chai" [Kahana Lives], said that Thursday was a "special day" in Middle East history, marking the 15th anniversary of the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. While he would have liked to report that there has been some large measure of progress during this round, Mr. Gal said that he could not do so. He was highly critical of the Palestinians but praised the progress made on the Jordanian track.

"And now for the good news. This week, we started a new phase in our negotiations with our Jordanian counterparts. In the negotiations with Jordan, we are discussing in great depth items from the agenda. These negotiations are being carried out in small subgroups instead of the full plenary, Mr. Gal said. He said "these groups are comprised of the regular delegates and additional experts that were brought in, both on the part of the Jordanians and in our delegation. In each and every one of the agenda items under discussion—and right now we are discussing item number three in the agenda, water, and issues from item number six in the agenda, that is cooperation in the areas of environment and energy. There will be new items coming up in the negotiations next round. The Jordanians have informed us that they wish to discuss the item of refugees next round."

In response to a question on the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda, Mr. Gal said "as far as Israel is concerned, a joint agreement on such an agenda has been reached." As to the proposed changes to the agenda by Jordanian negotiators, Mr. Gal said discussions are continuing.

On the Palestinian track, Mr. Gal said that "positions of the past rather than substantive dialogue" have marked this round. "We had hoped for a beginning of fertile discussions," he said. "Some of this did take place in the negotiations this week, yet we have still not rid ourselves of futile declarations," he added.

Mr. Gal said that an hour before the opening meeting of the seventh round of talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, the Palestinian press center issued a "readout" of the session outling the "role" each party had played. "[This] is serious business because this behaviour is indicative of the priorities of some of our Palestinian counterparts," Mr. Gal said. "To us, it sounded like a classic case of 'my mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts'," he said.

Mr. Gal said the statements made by Palestinians for "internal consumption" (in the occupied territories) are another source of concern to the Israeli delegation. "Most of these press releases in Arabic appear to have been prepared in advance of or irrelevant to the events actually taking place in the negotiating room. And there, the damage is significant because the harsh and inflammatory terminology of these announcements undermines the confidence of the public in the concept of a negotiated settlement and negotiated peace as a whole," he said.

Mr. Gal said Israeli delegation is in Washington to negotiate interim self-government arrangements in accordance with the Madrid formula. That formula calls for a two-stage process on the Palestinian track, with final status negotiations to begin at the start of the third year, which Israel "has obligated itself" to do, he said. It is important to reach agreement on an interim self-government arrangement "so that the clock can start ticking so that we can begin our countdown for the start of negotiations on the next phase," said Mr. Gal.

Mr. Gal said negotiators with Syria are trying to advance their work on a joint statement of principles, but their path is being impeded by "obstinate" Syrian demands for an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Mr. Gal said Israeli negotiators will not elaborate on the issue of withdrawal until Syrian delegates outline precisely what kind of peace is being discussed.

Mr. Gal said Israel officials have informed the cosponsors of the talks that they are willing to hold another round from Dec. 7 to Dec. 17. While Syria has confirmed

that it would attend, not word has been received from other Arab delegations, he said.

Mr. Gal said that Israeli officials believe that the results of the U.S. presidential elections should not have any impact on the negotiations. "And if others are having second or third thoughts and if others are hoping that something will indeed occur that will put them in a better position to negotiate, I think that they are wasting their time," he added.

Israel has not heard from U.S. officials regarding a possible mission to the region by Mr. Baker, said Mr. Gal, adding that the Jewish state feels bilateral negotiations are continuing and that that is where the focus should be.

Mr. Gal deflected a question on whether Israel would look favourably on an appointment of a special envoy by President-elect Bill Clinton. Instead, he repeated that the focus of the process should be bilateral discussions.

In a long and rambling response to a question regarding Palestinian complaints about what Israel has offered them, Mr. Gal again stressed the two-stage concept of the Madrid formula and said that only interim arrangements are under discussion at this point on the Palestinian track.

Furthermore, he said, in these discussions Israel is offering the Palestinians "a lot of executive authority over all walks of life of the average Palestinian in the territories. We have offered them some authority by legislation. We have offered to establish a court system, a totally independent court system, and many other aspects."

Palestinians Give Israelis Memorandum on Talks

TA30111405192 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Washington—The Palestinian Delegation's Information Center—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that the proposed Israeli pattern for the transitional stage is impractical and unapplicable and will make things even more complicated than they already are. In a summation of the seventh round of negotiations which he presented to the Israeli delegation at yesterday's final negotiating session, 'Abd-al-Shafi added that this round was not a waste of time. In light of a thorough study of the Israeli position's aspects—whether in ideas, proposals, or response to questions—it became apparent in this round that the proposed Israeli pattern, in addition to being unjust, clearly contradicts the bases, terms of reference, and the goals of the peace process. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that there will be no peace in the foreseeable future as long as the Israeli positions remain the same.

'Abd-al-Shafi delivered a Palestinian memorandum to the Israeli delegation to relay to its government.

The memorandum stressed the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process and its awareness of the need to reach a peace based on justice.

The memorandum reviewed various aspects of the Israeli pattern, noting that it is unapplicable and will render implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 impossible in the final stage.

The memorandum pointed out that the Israeli plan grants broad powers to the settlers, maintains maximum Israeli control over the Palestinian people, paves the way for annexing a large part of Palestinian lands, and guides the final stage in a way that Israel wishes.

The Palestinian memorandum noted that the Israeli plan did not refer even to any partial withdrawal or redeployment of Israeli forces. The memorandum added that the Israeli plan seeks to establish a dual legal system that sanctions discrimination. The memorandum also noted Jerusalem's exclusion from this plan, and stressed that it leaves the door open for continued settlement activity on Palestinian land.

The memorandum said that the Palestinian side is convinced that it is possible to achieve fundamental and real progress in the talks if agreement is reached on the full transfer of authority exercised by the military government and the Civil Administration.

The memorandum stressed unequivocally that the Palestinian delegation will never accept any fragmentation of the geographic unity of its land, will never accept the annexation of Jerusalem, will never accept the legitimization of the settlements, and will never accept any authority other than the Palestinian over its land.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Clinton Support for Peace

NC1811185092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Tunis, 18 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the new U.S. Administration under President-elect Clinton will continue the peace process and work for its success.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's Tunis correspondent, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the new U.S. Administration has said through Clinton that it will maintain and support the peace process. He noted that this decision is logical and natural.

He pointed out that the Arab League is fully prepared to carry out any role to help ensure the success of the peace process, noting that the League adopted a resolution at a ministerial meeting in Cairo in September 1991 welcoming the peace process even before the Madrid conference.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League and the countries taking part in the peace negotiations are in contact.

He added that one must not view the peace negotiations with optimism or pessimism. One must focus on the substance and the essence, he said. Everyone knows that difficulties will arise in the process, he said, adding: The negotiations period will be long and difficult and will demand patience and endurance. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Warns of 'Iranian Dangers'

NC2311073892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab nation has the potential to create an integrated economic power that will influence the new world order.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said in "The Arab League and the New World Order," a lecture he delivered at the Egyptian International Law Society on 22 November, that doing this requires the Arab countries to do all they can to restore confidence and solve Arab problems and disputes within their natural framework, namely the Arab League. He added that the general concept of Arab security does not conflict with every Arab country's national security and that the Arab League is the umbrella within which all regional Arab groups are operating. He stressed the need to strengthen ties between the League and these groups.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab nation must commit itself to the Arab League Charter and other charters and to expedite the establishment of an Arab court of justice. He said countries must effectively review the League's role and tasks because it is the appropriate tool for fulfilling the Arab nation's objectives and ambitions. [passage omitted]

The League chief added that the Arab stand in the Arab-Israeli peace talks emphasizes the need to implement all clauses of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with special emphasis on the principal clause on the impermissibility of the seizure of territories by force. He added that the Arab stand also confirms the principle of land for peace, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, implementation of Resolution 194 on the right to return, and the Arabism of Jerusalem. It also involves the implementation of Resolution 425 on Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He said that the success of the multilateral talks, which will lead to the establishment of regional cooperation, requires action to achieve tangible progress. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called for establishing an Arab peace-keeping force and proposed amending the Joint Arab Defense Treaty so that it will be more in line with current developments facing the Arab nation. He stressed that there is no conflict between national and pan-Arab security as both are indivisible in facing the threats facing the Arab nation.

He said he hopes the consequences of the Gulf crisis tribulation—which he said was the first time an Arab country had ever committed aggression against another Arab country—will be overcome. He said a study on pan-Arab security is being prepared and will be presented to the foreign ministers at their next meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also said that the water issue is one of the most serious issues facing the Arab nation, adding that there can be no food security without water security. He noted that water plays an important role in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Arab League secretary general said he hopes the border conflicts between Arab countries will not be exacerbated, saying that the ideal way to resolve such conflicts is through the Arab League.

He described Iranian threats to the Gulf states as "a serious matter," adding that the Arab League unanimously supports the United Arab Emirates and its historic and legitimate rights of ownership of the Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra Islands, which were occupied by Iran.

The League chief highlighted the need for Arab solidarity and unity in the face Iranian dangers. He appealed to Iran to stop its threats of interfering in the domestic affairs of some Arab countries. He added that the Arab countries were looking toward achieving peace with Iran as an Islamic country but were surprised by Iran's spirit of aggression and perfidy.

GCC Interior Ministers Convene 11th Meeting

Bisharah Addresses Ministers

LD2111232592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Nov (KUNA)—The interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries convened their 11th meeting here this evening. [passage omitted]

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah then delivered a speech in which he called on the conferees to reach a decision on a unified strategic security framework for the GCC countries, identify the means to achieve it, and begin to take steps to implement this decision.

Bisharah called on the participants to decide on measures providing for the movement among GCC countries with the use of identity cards, and saying that they could benefit from the experience of those GCC countries which have already initiated such measures.

Bisharah pointed out that the Gulf region is passing through sensitive circumstances and an important phase during which the phenomena of violence and the use of force have increased and become a tool of change, used to achieve political and ideological goals which serve a small minority at the expense of peaceful legitimacy.

The region is also witnessing the phenomenon of terrorism, lurking in ambush for the Gulf countries, which have foiled aggression and expressed their collective will to protect their security by all available and legitimate means. The region is also witnessing regional changes, international transformations, and changes in the positions and balance of powers, he stated.

Bishara called for an effective protective security network for the GCC countries in the realization of the notion of collective security so that the threats which lie in wait for the GCC states may be averted. He rejected complicated security measures "which are not capable of harmonizing with the requirements of development. We must work toward simplifying our security measures and enhancing their efficiency".

He said that the technical committees at the General Secretariat have discussed numerous recommendations concerning the unification of laws, harmonization of traffic codes, and movement among GCC countries.

The GCC interior ministers, except for the representative of Qatar, which did not participate in the meeting, are expected to continue their meetings tomorrow.

Meeting Concludes

LD2211191892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Nov (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] interior ministers have concluded their 11th meeting in Kuwait. His Excellency Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir chaired the two-day meeting.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bishara read the meeting's final communique at the final session, chaired by his excellency the Kuwaiti interior minister in the presence of their highnesses and excellencies the GCC interior ministers and the accompanying official delegations. [passage omitted]

The ministers reviewed GCC cooperation on security matters, stressing that GCC members' security is a collective responsibility that cannot be split and that its outcome is collectively shouldered by all members. They also emphasized the need to achieve collective security by enhancing cooperation among members, stepping up contacts, and passing essential information in an organized way.

The ministers also expressed their concern over the increasing threats in the region and their dangers, stressing that the current phase warrants further consultations as a precaution against any eventuality.

The ministers noted that the Iraqi regime continues to threaten security and stability in the region through its renewed claims on Kuwait, a matter that causes concern, promotes instability, and creates tension. The ministers condemned these repeated claims and called on the Iraqi regime to comply fully with the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly those related to the release of Kuwaiti and other POW's and detainees and border demarcation in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries.

The ministers renewed their support for Kuwait's measures to protect its security and stability, stemming from unity in Gulf security. They would like to point out that Kuwait's security is fundamentally linked to the unified Gulf security.

The ministers expressed their extreme gratitude to His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and praised his highness's directives which they received when they were honored to meet him. [passage omitted]

GCC Economic Cooperation Committee Meets

LD2211142692 Riyadh SPA in English 1259 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 22, SPA—The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Finance and Economic Cooperation Committee began a meeting here on Sunday.

The committee is made up of GCC finance and national economy ministers.

The meeting is chaired by Kuwaiti Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Roudhan who thanked the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd for his constant support to the GCC processes.

Al-Roudhan praised the accomplishments of the council in the economic sector and the decisions made for implementing the unified GCC economic agreement which is considered a guideline for joint GCC economic action.

The Kuwaiti minister praised the consistent efforts made by the GCC countries to implement the various aspects of the agreement.

Al-Roudhan said the current major global circumstances and changes have their obvious impact on the GCC countries' economies.

He said such circumstances and changes require from the GCC countries to form a unified economic power and an effective and positive bloc for dealing with other regional and international economic blocs in order to maintain the interests of the GCC peoples.

Al-Roudhan said the agenda of the current meeting formed the suitable ground for giving momentum to the joint GCC economic action.

He stressed the need to stabilize the GCC currencies in order to contain the negative effects of the fluctuations of the world currencies and interest rates.

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders To Hold Meeting on Peace Process 21 Nov

LD2111145892 Tunis-Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] As everyone is aware, the seventh round of peace talks between the Arabs and Israel ended without any tangible progress. A number of parties already have begun preparations for the eighth round of the talks.

Within this framework the Palestinian leadership and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will be holding a meeting in Tunis to evaluate the outcome of the seventh round of the talks and to adopt a stance on whether the Palestinian delegation should participate in the eighth round of the talks also due to take place in the American capital. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, director of the PLO Information Department, is now on the line, and I welcome him. Could you tell us more about the agenda of the meeting which is due to be held by the Palestinian leadership later today [21 November], God willing?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The meeting will be evaluating the outcome of the seventh round of the negotiations, which ended two days ago. As everyone is aware, the Israeli plan presented during this round called for the division and splintering of the occupied Palestinian land, allowing settlers to take part in the administration of the Palestinian territories and confining the Palestinian presence to cantons within a municipal and village council framework. Such a plan is a photocopy of the Shamir government's plan, which clearly was aimed at establishing autonomy for the inhabitants while maintaining the land under occupation. That is why such a plan has been rejected categorically.

We will be examining whether it will be worth taking part in the next round in light of the [lack of] progress achieved at the talks. We also will be discussing efforts underway to reunite Arab ranks, particularly efforts undertaken by His Majesty King Hassan and King Fahd, as well as other Arab leaders to achieve a minimum level of Arab solidarity, in accordance with information received by us in this matter.

As far as our stance on this matter is concerned: We do support all efforts aimed at achieving such a goal, particularly given the situation and the dangers facing Arab security and the current interference by a number of foreign powers aimed at threatening this security. We also will examine the outcome of the Israeli plan to resolve the Palestinian problem and Israel's continuous stubbornness in the negotiations.

As I already have said, we will be examining whether it will be worthwhile for us to participate in the forthcoming round of talks. A number of brothers from the Palestinian negotiating team will be present at the meeting so that we can evaluate the situation in a better way and make the appropriate decision.

Meeting Begins in Tunis

LD2211004292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The meeting of members of the Palestinian leadership began in Tunis yesterday evening [21 November] with the participation of the members of the Palestinian negotiating team to the Washington peace talks. The meeting, which will go on for three days, aims at reviewing and appraising the results of the seventh round of the Middle East peace talks, which ended this week. [passage omitted]

Postponement of Talks Considered

LD2211183992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, announced in Tunis yesterday [21 November] that the Palestinian leadership and members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation will discuss the postponement of the eighth round of negotiations, which Syria and Israel have agreed should be held in Washington on 7 December.

This is the second meeting of its kind to be held by the Palestinian leadership within two weeks. Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh said that, if the next round is to be held in the shadow of the Israeli position which dominated the seventh round, it will be doomed to failure. Consequently the Palestinian leadership believes that a postponement could provide an opportunity for the holding of serious Arab and international deliberations and contacts, particularly with Russia and the United States, to break the deadlock and compel Israel to respect the bases on which the peace negotiations are being held.

Factions Divided Over Attendance at Tunis Meeting

PSF, PLF Reportedly Want To Participate

LD2211134992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The official spokesman of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PSF] has stated that we in the PSF would like to stress the importance of the Palestinian leadership meeting to discuss the Palestinian situation including the means for supporting the values available and to appraise the results of the seventh round [of the peace talks]. These results require the Palestinian leadership to make the appropriate decisions, to draw up practical policies in response, and to redefine their stand regarding participation in the eighth round.

The spokesman added that while the PSF denounces the inclusion of its name among the names of other Palestinian factions which have issued a statement on boycotting the leadership meeting, it would like to reaffirm its desire to participate in the meeting with a delegation comprising members of the Front's leadership led by its secretary general, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] made the following statement: For some time now some circles—sometimes known as The Ten and sometimes as The Fourteen—have been issuing statements that involved the name of the PLF within the groupings that splintered from the PLO. Therefore the PLF, while denouncing the inclusion of its name, would like to stress that it is committed to the PLO as a legitimate and sole framework for the Palestinian people and a leader of this people's national struggle for the realization of its national aims: the return, the liberation, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

The PLF participates in the leadership executive and higher central bodies of the PLO and in their dialogues. [passage omitted] The Front will participate in the meeting of the leadership with a delegation led by Comrade 'Ali Ishaq, deputy secretary general of the Front and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

PSF, PLF Boycott Reported

JN2211202792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] A joint press statement issued by the [Damascus-based, Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid-led faction of the] Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PSF] and the [Damascus-based, Tal'at Ya'qub wing of the] Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has stated that the two fronts affirm their boycott of the Tunis meetings, in accordance with the joint position taken by the four democratic factions working under the PLO umbrella which boycotted these talks in order not to give a political cover to the influential leadership and the negotiating team.

The statement says: We deny reports carried by some radio and news agencies to the effect that the two fronts will attend these meetings. These fabricated news aim at misleading our people and the public opinion in order to cover the bargaining and defeatist policy of the influential leadership in the PLO.

Four Factions Boycott Meeting

JN2111190192 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has stated that the DFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have boycotted the meetings of the bureaucratic Palestinian leadership in Tunis, and thus revealed its negotiating policy, which has given in to Rabin's conditions and acted upon advice offered by the Bush administration. The four PLO factions, he added, demanded that the negotiations be halted, that the Palestinian delegates refrain from attending the eighth round of Washington talks, and that efforts be made to start a general national dialogue.

Hawatimah demanded that a general referendum be held for the Palestinian people inside the homeland and the diaspora on the course of the current negotiations.

Commenting on the DFLP's failure to attend the Tunis meetings, Taysir Khalid, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, said: One whole year of negotiations with the Zionist entity has passed. As for the so-called Palestinian delegation, the Madrid-Washington team, it has only reaped disappointment, as its wagers on the U.S. Administration, the letter of invitation, and U.S. assurances have proven useless.

Khalid added: During the latest round of talks, it become evident that Rabin's peace plan with regard to the Palestinian track is different only in form from the one proposed by his predecessor Shamir. Given this outcome of the negotiations, the so-called Tunis leadership conferees are called upon to immediately halt the policy of deceiving the Palestinian public, to feel for the people's pulse inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora, and to heed the views of the Palestinian opposition by declaring withdrawal from these talks and starting a comprehensive national dialogue involving Palestinian factions, bodies, and nationalist figures.

'Popular' Conference Planned

JN2311100292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 27

[Excerpt] The Palestinian leadership postponed its meeting scheduled to be held in Tunis on 21 November to yesterday, 22 November. The meeting was postponed despite the arrival of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, and Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, members of the Palestinian delegation, who came from Washington.

Palestinian sources have told AL-RA'Y that postponing the meeting of the Palestinian leadership, which includes members of the PLO Executive Committee, members of the Fatah Central Committee, and members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation was a final attempt to placate both the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which have boycotted the meeting.

Meanwhile, other Palestinian sources have explained that the meeting was postponed because some members of the Palestinian delegation including Faysal al-Husayni and some members of the Executive Committee such as 'Abdallah Hurani, Yasir 'Amru, and Iliya Khuri were

unable to join the leadership meetings for technical reasons but were able to attend yesterday's meeting.

PLO Executive Committee members told AL-RA'Y earlier that poet Mahmud Derwish, member of the Executive Committee, has recently boycotted the meetings of the Palestinian leadership without giving any reason.

A diplomatic Palestinian source has considered as unjustified the Popular and Democratic Fronts "annoyance" with the Palestinian leadership meeting, especially in light of the difficult circumstances which the Palestinian people are going through.

The same source said that the door is still open for both fronts to take part in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership in order to express their viewpoints and exert pressure.

Executive Committee members 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh from the Popular Front and Taysir Khalid from the Democratic Front told AL-RA'Y yesterday that their boycott of the Palestinian leadership meetings is not final and does not mean that both the Popular and Democratic Fronts will boycott PLO frameworks and institutions.

They also stressed their concern for the PLO, its role, and the unity of its representation of the Palestinian people. Malluh added: We are willing to meet with our brothers at any stage and anywhere once we see serious and true willingness to conduct the requested reviewal process.

Many Palestinian sources have told AL-RA'Y that one of the important items on the agenda of the current Palestinian leadership meetings is the holding of a "popular Palestinian conference" at the end of this month. This will be attended by 300 figures, half of whom are members of the Palestinian National Council and the other half members of "elected organizations" in the occupied territories.

They affirmed that a decision concerning Palestinian participation in the upcoming eighth round in Washington on 7 December is not out of the question although such participation will be conditional. [passage omitted]

Hamas Says 'Arafat 'Torpedoed' Reconciliation Meeting

NC2011175592 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Amman, Nov 20 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "torpedoed" a meeting with Muslim fundamentalist Hamas leaders that was to have further reconciled the two key Palestinian movements, a Hamas official in Jordan charged Friday [20 November].

Sources close to the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunis said Thursday that leaders of the Hamas movement had refused to meet 'Arafat during a visit he made to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on Monday.

"Through his statements at the beginning of October and November and his attacks and threats against Hamas, 'Abu-Ammar ('Arafat) torpedoed the basis for this meeting," the spokesman for Hamas in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghawshah, told AFP.

"We then sent written messages to the Fatah Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the PLO, asking them to clarify their attitude regarding his attacks and threats, but unfortunately we have until now received no response," he added.

In an interview on November 7 in the London-based Arab daily, AL-HAYAT, 'Arafat sharply criticized Hamas.

The PLO chairman accused it of "resorting to arms" in the Israeli-occupied territories against Fatah militants whom he controls and of having recently made a deal in Iran to obtain money and weapons.

Ghawshah denied the existence of such an accord between Hamas and Iran.

"This accusation is unfounded and propagated by certain PLO sources," he said. "The Khartoum meeting could not easily take place in this atmosphere of threats in which a minimum of trust was lacking."

Ghawshah said the Khartoum meeting was to debate several issues, particularly "means to strengthen the ceasefire agreement concluded July 13 in Gaza between the PLO and Hamas and to settle differences between Hamas and Fatah through a democratic dialogue."

This accord ended clashes between Hamas and the Fatah, the main component of the PLO, in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Hamas, which is active in the occupied territories, is not a PLO member and is radically opposed to the Middle East peace process begun in Madrid last year and backed by the PLO.

"For Hamas, the Palestinian people oppose the Madrid process and negotiations with the enemy which has seized the land of Palestine," he said.

Commentary Assails Iranian 'Interference'

LD2211225592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Station commentary, including observations by WAFA political editor]

[Text] News agencies and Arab and international newspapers have reported that the Iranian media, particularly radio and television, have persistently carried inflammatory commentaries against the PLO, urging the launching of liquidation campaigns and acts of violence in the Palestinian arena, especially inside the occupied land. The attention of the Arab and international media was caught by a commentary broadcast by Iranian radio

and television on more than one occasion. That commentary included an open call to the Hamas movement to clear the air in the required manner. The commentary, which caused much controversy and uproar, did not say what was meant by in the required manner, but what followed left no room for ambiguity or interpretation. Thus, the commentary praised the Hamas movement, claiming that it has taught 'Arafat's group a lesson they will not forget. This can be understood to mean that Hamas's muddlings and its confrontation with the various organizations and the youth of the intifadah and the General Unified Command of the intifadah take place in coordination with Tehran and are motivated by Tehran.

The Jordanian papers AL-RA'Y and SAWT AL-SHA'B, published in Amman, have touched on this subject, discussing the danger and the dimensions of Iranian interference in Palestinian affairs. They said that this interference is aimed at splitting the Palestinian arena and at finding alternatives to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. The Iranian commentary said that the PLO does not have credibility or popularity and that this has given rise to disagreements among its leaders. It also said that the dissolution of the PLO cannot be ruled out because the PLO took part in the negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

The two Jordanian newspapers both pointed out that the Iranian delegation, headed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to the last Islamic summit in Dakar voted in favor of deleting the expression jihad for the liberation of Palestine from the summit's final communique. This means that Iran was washing its hands of something it was not at all familiar with.

The political editor of WAFA, the Palestinian news agency, has commented on this, saying: We never wanted to get drawn into a media battle with Iran because we continued to believe firmly that the solid relations between the PLO and the Islamic revolutionary movement before it came to power left scope for a great deal of patience toward the brethren who know full well what we contributed to their movement before it triumphed. We thought in the beginning that some people were agitating against the historical relations between us and that neither this trend nor the agitators would find an ear. However, we discovered that the vindictive services of propaganda in Iran were all being used to attack the PLO and that the rulers there, who at last year's Islamic summit voted in favor of deleting the resolution on jihad for the liberation of Palestine, now support the Hamas movement and other parties on jihad, but jihad against the PLO and not against the Zionist occupation. The black-turbaned rulers know that even their dribble of words with which they want to make wooden horses and swords will not affect the Zionist occupation, but will only sow discord and waste time, especially as everyone is aware of the Irangate scandal and the Israeli role in arming Iran during the Iraq-Iran war.

The WAFA political editor continues: We do not understand how some Islamic leaders can believe in the purity of the Iranian role when they know its background and its motives, unless they are themselves implicated as a result of inducements which we know about but which are not the subject of our talk at this stage. We do not believe that any of the sons of our people, be they fundamentalists or otherwise, can continue to swallow the bait presented by Iran, which has so far failed to renounce jihad although it signed that resolution in the Senegalese capital. Nor can Iran wash its hands of the scandal it became embroiled in after it bought arms from Israel, cooperating and and dealing with it, as the various intelligence services revealed and as facts and events later confirmed.

The time when Palestine, its defense, and the fight for it were used as an excuse by those in crisis, by those implicated in shady deals, by those whose institutions had disintegrated or had been disbanded, and by the unsuccessful people who were pushed by crises, impasses, and devastating failures have pushed to seek solace in past eras is over. Some Arabs have done exactly that in recent years. They have succeeded in achieving some of the goals they set for themselves for reasons relating to the inevitable presence of the Palestinian revolution in areas under the control of some of these regimes. However, the situation is totally different now because the Palestinian revolution has generated an extension—namely, the intifadah—and it has transferred its main theater of conflict from the outer circle to the center. Consequently, the Palestinian struggle has shed some of the burdens of control and domination which used to determine its course. The embarrassment has become greater for all those who claim to fight for Palestine, be it an Arab or a non-Arab regime, and now they should either give clear political and material support and backing to Palestinian legitimacy or they should announce that they have no support to give. Admitting their incapacity would be to their credit. What Iran is doing these days does not fall into either category, but it has the hallmarks of something we will talk about in the future, the WAFA political editor concludes.

Notables To Meet Mitterrand in Jerusalem

JN2111144192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Basim Abu-Sumayah dispatch from the occupied territories]

[Text] The Arab-Israeli peace negotiations—whose seventh round ended without any progress worth mentioning—the entire peace process, and France's role in this process will be the main topics French President Francois Mitterrand will discuss at his meeting with a delegation of Palestinian figures in the French consulate in west Jerusalem on 26 November.

Palestinian sources have stated that Mitterrand, who will arrive in Israel next week, will also meet with five local

figures as a courtesy gesture. A delegation made up of 12 figures from the occupied territories will meet with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the headquarters of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in east Jerusalem on the same day.

The peace process, and other important issues, including the new configuration of the Palestine National Council will be the main topic to be discussed at an expanded meeting between the PLO command and figures from the occupied territories in the Jordanian capital at the end of this month. According to well-informed sources, 180 figures from the occupied territories will attend this meeting. The sources also explained that 30 Palestinians will leave for the Egyptian capital soon to be trained on how to head the local police which will assume the responsibility of local security during the interim stage. In this respect, the sources said that the Palestinians intend to establish what could be called as the National Training Institute to prepare the necessary leaders in all walks of life within the autonomy rule.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Meets Hizballah's Nasrallah

JN2111184192 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, has received a delegation of the Political Bureau of Lebanon's Hizballah led by Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah.

During their meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed the latest developments of the situation in southern Lebanon, as well as the heroic resistance and our people's steadfastness in southern Lebanon. They also discussed the latest Palestinian developments, the glorious intifadah, and our Palestinian people's struggle against the settlement endeavors meant to liquidate the Palestine question. The two sides also discussed relations between Hizballah and the PFLP-GC.

Algeria

Tehran Reports on Expulsion of Diplomats Denied

LD2011232392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Sources close to the Foreign Ministry stress that Algeria has decided, with full sovereignty, to scale down its diplomatic representation in Tehran. These sources described reports published yesterday by the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT as contradictory to reality and are unfounded allegations.

It is worth noting that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT quoted sources from the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying that Iran had decided to deport seven Algerian diplomats, ordered the closure of the Algerian cultural center in Tehran, but had allowed 300 Algerians receiving training in Iranian universities to continue their studies. The same sources stressed to APS that Algeria had decided, with full sovereignty, to reduce the number of diplomatic representatives in Tehran and had deliberately limited their number to three officials. It had asked Iran to implement the principle of reciprocity, and on the basis of the same firm principle of tit-for-tat, Iran should carry out the same measures within the same deadline. The same sources added that this measure, which had been taken as a reaction to the policy of Iran's blatant interference in Algeria's internal affairs, aims at keeping a symbolic diplomatic representation in Tehran, which is in line with the state of relations between the two countries, relations that have reached their lowest state in two years.

The same sources added that the number of Algerian diplomats to Iran had never reached seven. These sources also pointed out that Algeria had never opened nor established any cultural center in the Iranian capital. What is more, Algeria, which used to welcome and educate Iranian students in its training institutions, never sent Algerian students to Iran in return or within the implementation of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation agreements.

The same sources concluded that the number of 300 students who may be present in Iran, as stated by the Iranian authorities, may be present there on a personal basis, or, as is likely to be the case, could have been mobilized within the policy of interference and destruction that is being pursued by the Iranian authorities against Algeria.

Prime Minister Abdesselam Interviewed

LD2211071592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1937 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam by unidentified correspondent in ENTV studio in Algiers on 21 November—live; boldface passages in French]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Ladies and gentlemen, peace be upon you and welcome to this special live session with Prime Minister Abdesselam Belaid. Welcome, Mr. Belaid.

Mr. Prime Minister, since you were appointed as the head of the government you have not been seen in public a great deal, while some big questions are being asked about Algeria. So, where do we stand in this crisis and how close are you to implementing your government's program?

It has been said that your assumption of the post of prime minister marked a return to the 1970s and to Boumediennism [in reference to the former late president of Algeria], but is this an accusation? The frequency of government changes was not a familiar phenomenon in the country. The state cadres and apparatus began to feel a lack of stability, and this has generally spread throughout the country. Events then succeeded one another and the major question of raising Algeria's morale has become enveloped, at times, in anecdotes and tittle-tattle. You replaced the minister of justice, and the free press linked the subject to other issues. Is the free press really independent and if so, whom is it independent from? And, why does the official press keep losing some of its credibility?

Judicial investigations keep taking a long time. Nothing new has been reported up to now in the case of the assassination of Boudiaf, or this is my understanding. There has been nothing new in the case of the leaking of the baccalaureat examination papers. The subject of bribery does not seem to go away. Hadj Battou [an arms smuggler] was sentenced to (?only) eight months imprisonment. Young people are living in dire social conditions. How can we replace black with white?

Mr. Prime Minister, you have inherited a dilapidated state of affairs and you accepted the responsibility, something that raised the hopes of many Algerians. But allow me to summarize the situation.

While the ordinary citizen works hard for his daily bread, handguns are being traded in the black market. It is these themes, together with some others, that we would like to take up with you, Mr. Prime Minister. With us are our colleagues: Nouara from Algiers ENTV Network, welcome; and Abdelaziz Shan from 'Horizon', welcome.

Mr. Prime Minister, we would like to start with the first question, which concerns the link between economic revitalization and stable security. The question is how much of your program have you implemented, and what is your assessment of the security situation since the issuance of the Prevention of Terrorism Law?

[Abdesselam] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Briefly, the so-called economic revitalization is linked to restoring security all over the homeland. Algeria's success in getting out of this

crisis is linked to the restoration of security in the country. I do not want to go into details, because this is common knowledge.

You ask me how much of the government's program has been implemented. The government is only four months old and it had announced an extensive program, which was not meant for a short or a limited period of time. We made it a program that would take the country out of the crisis it is in. [passage omitted]

There is something that people did not notice. According to what the IMF was expecting from Algeria, the dinar should have been devalued by 50 percent in the summer. This was one of the conditions for the IMF to continue to give aid or grant loans to Algeria. Devaluation of the dinar by 50 percent would have meant raising prices, but we did not do it. We did not abide by this decision, but people do not know about this. If we had not taken this decision, there would have been a tremendous rise in prices today. One of the IMF conditions on Algeria was that we increase the prices of bread, flour, and milk from the past October. We did not raise the prices. [passage omitted] We took decisions too with regard to security.

Regarding the fight against terrorism, you, no doubt, have heard about the new law that has been enacted and about the measures that have been taken together with all the operations being carried out by the security forces within an organized and managed framework. With regard to the security situation, although we cannot say that we have been able to solve the problem, matters are under control.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, with the breaking up of many terrorist networks and the recording of the confessions of those who were behind the airport attack, can we say that you have defined the source of the security tension in the country?

[Abdesselam] Source—what does that mean? The source is known. The source is the group that is carrying out these actions, and it is linked to the dissolved so-called Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] party. I believe that all the people know this now. All these groups are under the umbrella of this one group. It has been discovered that this group has branches abroad. It has contacts abroad with several states and several quarters, sometimes with official quarters and other times with unofficial quarters. You all know that operations in this field do not use official methods; they are underground networks. I mean that it is difficult for one to realistically feel these networks, but we have information that came from many quarters. Behind this group there are people who have ambitions in Algeria; there are some who want to place Algeria under their influence; there are some who want to see Algeria broken up and not strong. They do not want and are not happy to see a strong Algerian state in this region. There are several reasons that motivate some circles....

[Correspondent, interrupting] But Mr. Prime Minister, the side has been specified—Iran. However, there are other sides—especially in Europe—and the media has published reports on the activities of elements from the dissolved FIS. The activities of these groups may strain relations between Algeria and these states.

[Abdesselam] If it is proved that these states directly support these operations in a deliberate manner, this will then affect relations between Algeria and the states which are proved to be plotting such operations. Even if the state itself or the government is not directly intervening, when a government permits within its own country the carrying out of some activities hostile to our country and in a way that is alien to normal relations between states, this will affect our relations with it—the relations between our state and those states that resort to such means or accept them.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, a question concerning the timetable. You have tackled this issue in the government program and said that three years are necessary to get Algeria out of the crisis. However, the question is the same for the Higher State Council, whose mission is linked, according to the Constitution, to the mandate of the president of the republic, who has resigned. How can we get out of this situation, which might lead the country to a crisis, especially since the resumption of the elections process seems to be very difficult in view of the country's situation.

Moreover, do you not think that if this situation is not settled, it would have a negative effect on Algeria vis-a-vis its foreign partners, who think that a resumption of the electoral process might still be possible and that this could bring other forces to government, which would mean that consequently, there might be neither a continuity of the government program nor the continuity of the Algerian state itself?

[Abdesselam] I think that this is a real political problem. It will take time for the country to get out of the crisis. Politically speaking, we are in a well-known situation regarding the constitutional point to which you have referred. Normally, the mission of the Higher State Council will finish by the end of next year. However, I think that the brothers in the Higher State Council are aware of their responsibilities, which are not just a matter of time. They shouldered these responsibilities to get the country out of its problems, not to take it back to the beginning. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In reference to my question, which you have not answered, will there be a halt to economic deterioration or a beginning of recovery?

[Abdesselam] Indebtedness is putting pressure on the economic situation. We will try in the next three years to overcome the inherited difficulties. There is a budget deficit, and we are indebted abroad. We will try to ease the weight of this situation. The weight of debts and the weight of the state deficit. In three years, we will be able to return to the phase of investment. That is to say, we will return to strong and productive investment. Apart from

[word indistinct], there is a sustained effort in the field of hydrocarbons. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, you have inherited this political and economic situation due to a strategy that led to the deteriorating economic situation witnessed by the country, especially the conditions that presided over the implementation of the democratization process. Now, it seems that there are efforts being carried within the framework of the same strategy in an attempt to find solutions within the framework of a strategy which had led the country to this kind of situation. Do you not think that there should be a change of strategy for a total review of the democratic process. Is there, within this framework, an intention to revise the law on political parties?

[Abdesselam] Right now, there are no such intentions. There might be something to this effect in the future. Should there be a revision, it will touch upon technical matters. However, there will not be any revision of pluralism, because pluralism is considered in the present situation as the basis for democracy. Therefore, the government has not reached this issue so far. It is not one of our priorities. We are not thinking of revising this law. This might take place in the future only in connection with the method of organizing parties. In the past, 15 people used to declare themselves as a party. They used to have the right to have wide-ranging activities and to have candidates in elections. The question is: should we remain so, or should we find other criteria. Nothing has happened yet, I am only posing the question, but so far, we have not thought this issue over.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, as we are talking about parties and regarding the issue of the recovery of the state properties, this process is giving rise to various reactions, particularly in partisan spheres, and it is considered to be causing harm to a right that had been gained in a lawful way. Another explanation says that this process might cause a further deterioration of the political situation.

[Abdesselam] I think that this problem is related to a phase of transition. The past situation made it possible now for parties to enjoy the use of state properties. Why don't people ask themselves: why do political parties, which are private groups, enjoy the use of state properties? [passage omitted] In brief, the decision we have made comes within the framework of the continuation of an action started by the Higher State Council in the days of Boudiaf. [passage omitted] The decision we have made is as follows: the state properties, which had been used in the past as premises for the state institutions, will have to be returned to the state to be used by it. The state needs these premises right now. It says that the former state properties as well as those that had been achieved during the state's planned investment will have to be returned to the state. [passage omitted] However, there will be contacts between the government and the parties so that we can see how to leave to the parties the possibility of continuing their activities. The parties we are considering, and which we think of right now as parties that deserve such consideration, are the ones that are taking part in the dialogue with the Higher State Council because they have shown to a certain extent their presence on the political scene and gained some votes in the last elections.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, issues like these are frequently discussed in the media, be it the issue of the parties, or for example the dismissal of the justice minister. For instance, the statements that label your government as a government with an internal rift, a government with an internal rift that is not only represented by the recovery of the headquarters of some parties, but is also represented by the accumulation of negative results. What is the form that could put an end to this rift in view of the current situation? First, I believe that you should answer the question of the dismissal of the justice minister, because it is a matter that is being debated by public opinion.

[Abdesselam] I believe that the situation should go back their limits. Things have to be brought back to their true proportions. The dismissal of a minister is, in fact, a matter that is connected with the survival of a government. A minister may enter the government, a minister may leave, and a minister may be dismissed, why should this become a national problem? The government has the principles for its action. The government is based on principles, on laws, on principles of action. If the government is not harmonious and does not respect the laws of action within itself, it is not a government.

A minister made a decision, that decision was outside the government's agreement. I made a decision to dismiss him, to remove him, because if he had stayed, it could have caused a flaw inside the government [word indistinct]. I chose this man, and nobody imposed him on me. I met him for the first time one day and asked him to enter the government and told him that there are problems inside the judiciary apparatus, and that now we have two aims: People talk a lot about this judiciary apparatus as though there are thereby affairs that need to be settled from this point; second, I am facing an abstruse political problem in connection with the security of the country, and the issues from this side should be clarified. The judges must implement the laws of the country, and adhere to the principles of the country. Judges who, in the carrying out of their responsibility, exhibit a particular political identity, particularly in connection with the dissolved party, see now that they are in a clash with the state; this is unacceptable to us. Things have got to be normalized in this case. The new minister told me: I am ready.

Thus, these are our main problems, and we worked in this (?sphere). But one day after the installation of the government, I made a decision concerning the cadres. I told all the ministers that before any minister changes a post, or dismisses someone, or appoints a new person, he

must ask for my permission. Sometimes, I must sign the decision, but he must present the justifications for his decision. [passage omitted]

This justice minister suggested to me at the beginning of September—some questions are unknown to the people—at the beginning of September, he suggested removing the attorney general of justice in Algeria for unfounded reasons. I told him, the man cannot be removed for such a light reason. He has a big responsibility, and we are in a special situation here in the capital. Do not touch him, leave him at present. Were it somebody else, we would have talked about keeping him, or changing his post at the beginning of September.

As prime minister, I heard last week in the street that Algeria's attorney general has been removed. Removed and detained. Detained within the framework of the purge. This is a dangerous matter. He was detained with another group of people. [passage omitted]

How can one deal with this? First, I thought I would find an internal and calm solution to avoid a big problem. However, when the decision was out and some newspapers reported it, then a crisis of another nature began. This is because of the fact that the Algiers general prosecutor is among those who have had their positions since the beginning of the problem of terrorism, and this perhaps goes back before the eighties. He had been, I think, a general prosecutor at the State Security Court. He has a history with this problem and clear and known positions in this country. He has always held a leading role in this action. Harming his position and his person and throwing his case before public opinion caused a problem to all the people who are mobilized for the state, and these are saying: how could this fate be in store for people who are working with you and are on the firing line? This caused a crisis within the security services and especially among judges. We are currently conducting the formation of special tribunals against terrorism, and these people are wondering whether they will be dismissed tomorrow as they are carrying out their duty. So this is a very sensitive issue. It created a crisis of discouragement and demobilization at a time when we need to mobilize all our forces against terrorism. So, I was confronted with the following choice: either to swallow this bitter pill with the consequence of creating a crisis of confidence in the spheres of the people who are mobilized against terrorism, or to find another solution. In the end, I chose to put everything on my account, because I am in charge of this case and I chose this person. No one imposed him on me. Dismissing him four months later is a failure for me. This is a failure. To choose a minister and dismiss him four months later is a failure. I had to choose this. I had to shoulder this responsibility personally in order to avert a crisis among the people who are ready to fight with us in this case, especially since the file stating the reasons in this case is empty. [passage omitted].

It has also been said that the Algiers prosecutor is taking bribes. Should this be the case, then put it forward. [passage omitted] There is nothing that justifies the dismissal of this man under the current situation, especially in the way he was dismissed, which caused harm to his person and to the people who were involved with him. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The justice minister was described in some newspapers as being a Boudiafist. Now this is our chance to ask, how far has the judiciary gone in the case of the assassination of the late Boudiaf?

[Abdesalam] We are all Boudiafists. We have been Boudiafists even before knowing Boudiaf. We all belonged to the same party. We were are combatants. I knew Boudiaf 40 years ago, and we knew each other during the struggle. Whoever follows Boudiaf's ideas is a Boudiafist, but not those who exploit the name of Boudiaf. [passage omitted]

Regarding the case itself, as you can see, the case is before the law, and I don't have the right to talk about a judiciary matter. What I can say is that the person concerned is under investigation and those accused, rightly or wrongly, of aiding or abetting him are in the hands of the courts. The judiciary is working as fast as it can and you know legal matters require investigation.

On the other hand, as you know, a national committee was set up to investigate, but people should not expect that this committee should come out tomorrow and tell them: there you are; these are the people who killed Boudiaf. The national committee could not replace the courts, and people should understand that it should not produce things that should eventually come from the courts. The committee is charged with unravelling the circumstances in which the assassination was carried out and, perhaps also, make the investigative judge's task easier, but it does not pass judgment.

As far as I know, the committee had issued an appeal through the media calling on anyone who had any information relating to the case to come forward as a witness and submit their testimony. On the other hand, as far as I know, they invited almost all the state officials at all levels, including Mr. Ali Kafi and Mr. Khaled Nezzar and the people who were with Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, and questioned them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If you would permit, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam, could we turn to the subject of the press. Is it possible to talk about an independent or a private press? This is one aspect. The other aspect is the state-owned press; there is a feeling that the public press has little credibility, but regarding the private press, I think I agree with my colleague, Abdelaziz, when he calls it a private press. What are the limits that this press can go? This is one aspect; I might be giving too much of my own opinion here, but what I understand from the experiences we saw, for example, during the Gulf war, that foreign television channels, with their varied leanings, had the interests of (their) countries at heart. Now, in Algeria, is the press part of the political struggle that is going on in Algeria, what are the interests being served

and, the other part, why has the state-owned press so little credibility in the eyes of the readers and the public?

[Abdesselam] This is due to the fact that we have not yet become accustomed to practicing democracy; this is just an aside; you asked me a question and I am giving you an opinion. Is the press independent or not? I think whoever said there was state-owned press and a private-sector press was right, because a private press does not mean an independent press. Perhaps it is independent of the regime or the state, but it belongs to some other party, be it capital or whoever is financing it and providing for it; it could sometimes even belong to foreign powers, those who support it financially, with the exception of some newspapers that are arguably sustained by revenue from their own sales. Everyone knows, however, that no newspaper can today survive on its own sales; they would need either advertising revenue or direct financing.

The so-called independent newspapers we have here are in fact financed by certain people. Do these people give their money just like that for nothing? They have their own interests. They are giving money because they have interests to safeguard.

Second, why is there no credibility? This is because it is said that whoever is on the government's side does not report accurate information and covers up for the government. [passage omitted]

Journalists working for the state, I believe, abide by certain standards and do not live by such practices. For, I believe, the state-owned press, although it has its own shortcomings, does have, one can say, an honorable mission to carry out; it contributes to educating public opinion and to shaping the Algerian citizen and getting him accustomed to the noble and clean things, rather than dirty living.

[Correspondent] Let us go back to the issue of indebtedness. The government has rejected the rescheduling of Algeria's external debts. One possibility is the restructuring of the debt, and this concerns in particular Algeria's relations with the big creditors. Can we know the state of our relations with the big creditors, France in particular? Second question: it has been clearly asserted not to resort to rescheduling, because the government seems to have means other than rescheduling. How do you explain? How do you explain the return to the keeping up of this debate?

[Abdesselam] Who is doing this? Not me.

[Correspondent] No, not the government, but there are some political quarters that are keeping up this debate concerning the rescheduling of external debt. What is the political background being served by this dialogue? [Abdesselam] Regarding this case, I am wondering like yourself, about the reasons behind it? Why? Our position is known. We do not go for the rescheduling of the debt, but we go for restructuring, as long as it is not linked to political conditions. What is the problem? In the assessment of our needs from abroad, there might be a need for financing. I will not call it restructuring. I do not differentiate between our expenditure, whether it is going toward paying our debts or to purchase something else. As regards our needs vis-a-vis abroad, we have commitments and capabilities. There might be a need for funds ranging between one and two billion. I cannot give the precise figures, because there are people, among the Islamic Salvation Front group and others who are in hiding and unidentified, who are in touch abroad with the people who their country is dealing with, and who tell them: wait because this government is going to fall. Some people said we would fall in September. Now they are saying: this government will go by the end of this year, and will be replaced by another government. Some others are waiting and saying [words indistinct]. They are are therefore saying: do not help this government, in other words, kill the country, starve Algeria and its people, prevent Algeria from getting aid in order to bring about the downfall of the current government, and have it replaced by another one with which they might agree.

There are also foreign spheres that want us and this government to fail, and who are resorting to the same practices. So, I will not give the game away, I will not say where I am going to get the money from. However, I know now that we will get what we need. We have enough to last us for this year within the framework of a difficult and very tight program. We will get through, however. I will be more specific about this in the future, not now. This is why we did not declare anything as far as this issue is concerned. France is well-known. It has been telling us for a long time to reschedule our debts. Concerning your debts, France says, we cannot give you any assistance out of the general framework of the Paris Club. This club is well-known. It tells us to go to Washington to the International Monetary Fund [IMF], which has a list of conditions. [passage omitted] This means that we have to open and conduct our economy under control and in conformity with the model they impose on you. Should you agree with the IMF, you can then go to the Paris Club, which will then give you the money, but if you do not agree with the IMF, you do not get anything. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Allow me, your excellency, the prime minister. Regarding the issue of the public sector and the revival of the economic enterprises in the shadow of these deteriorating conditions, while there are companies that are heavily indebted and cannot get loans, you have submitted several hypotheses such as bringing factories to a standstill and employing workers somewhere else. How far have you gone in this, and how far is the national trade union helping to implement this program, because these hypotheses are based to a large extent on the workers' support? I go back here to the issue of credibility in Algeria, it is impossible for any country to function without trust between it and the people. There cannot be a state without a people. The issue of credibility is posed first under the form of an assessment. You have drawn up

in the government program the outline of a general assessment of the decade. The national trade union called for an assessment to give people their own rights. Is there any action being undertaken to draw up this assessment?

[Abdessalam] [passage omitted] I believe that we must tell the truth to gain the people's trust. Now, what is the situation like? I have told workers that I might close some factories, because the situation in the country is calling for this. [passage omitted] We are busy preparing a finance law, the budget, next year's plan, the new laws to be adopted in order to organize ourselves, the revision of the structures of enterprises. There are priorities in the government action. The assessment will be done as we go. We cannot do everything at the same time. However, we will not forget this aspect. The sector that had seen some action previously and that is making itself known is the sector of hydrocarbons. I know, for instance, that in the field of gas, Algeria's loss of profits because of the policies of the eighties has gone beyond $31 billion. [passage omitted] As regards the liquids, i.e. crude oil, Condevaux [as heard, not further identified], and others, the loss amounts to 22 billion. However, the figure regarding oil is not established yet. Consequently, this is going up to 60 or 70 billion, all in all. I have stated before that Algeria's loss amounted to 40 billion, because, in the government's [word indistinct], should we add the two or three past years, we reach 50 billion. This is an approximate figure. This is a first element of the assessment. We might reach other figures in other sectors. However, this is not a priority at the present time. It will be done, but it is not a priority.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, the Prime Minister, one of the concerns of your government is investment in the field of hydrocarbons. There are possibilities for changes in the oil market whereby Europe and America intend to impose a tax on oil consumption. This tax might affect exporting countries. Algeria, for instance, could lose the figure of $1 billion.

[Abdessalam] So they say.

[Correspondent] How will we deal with this new situation?

[Abdessalam] This is a new situation. Now, there must be some action undertaken by OPEC so that such a decision is neither reached nor implemented, because we are all attached to this environment, but this should not be at our expense, or at the expense of a group of countries. [word indistinct] I think that there is some action undertaken within OPEC, so that this is not at the expense of OPEC members, especially the Arab ones among them.

[Correspondent] This measure might take place at a time when the Third World is going through a phase of fragmentation. Can there be a strategy between the oil-exporting countries within this state of deterioration?

[Abdessalam] We are trying. Saudi Arabia, for instance, does not have a position. Maybe it has a special position in this field, because these countries depend on oil and hydrocarbons, a matter that determines the use of crude oil. However, this is a way of taking part of the oil revenues to spend them over there. The world ecology program is to be financed on the basis and at the expense of oil.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, the G-15 group is meeting in Dakar. The issue of South-South cooperation is being posed [words indistinct]. The same question is being asked: what is the credibility of this kind of message at the present time in the shadow of the changes being witnessed by the world? How can one activate this situation?

[Abdessalam] I think that credibility is related to the determination of the states of the South and their possibilities. This is not an easy issue. However, we should not forget that some relations in the South now have started to work in a direct way. There are countries in the South that can offer things in the industrial and agricultural fields. In the old days, it used to be South-North cooperation all the time. Maybe now, new relations will gradually be created. Countries like Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, India, even Indonesia, and Algeria to a small extent, because of the time wasted in the past years, all these countries could contribute with some things directly. Should we initiate such an action, this might give rise to relations of a new kind that might result in creating a group that will gradually face up to the North group. As you can see, there is an attempt in North America to include Mexico with the United States and Canada.

[Correspondent] I would like to go back to the issue of hydrocarbons. One of the proposals in the government program is the entry tax on multi-national companies. Are there files on SONATRACH [Algerian oil company] deals?

[Abdessalam] There are negotiations between SONATRACH and several other companies. There are technical and financial problems. Right now, the technical problems seem to have the upper hand. It is not even a financial problem, because these companies, as you know, have been invited to become SONATRACH partners with their money and their technology. So, how can they organize their presence inside with SONATRACH within the one operation. They are bringing money and technology, and we have our fields, our enterprises, our cadres, and our organization. How can we work together? How can we work with their money and sometimes with their technology? How can we organize our work together? Who will be in command? Will it be a joint command, or the command of one group over another one? These are the problems, in addition to the financial problems, which belong to two types: investments, which will have to be carried out in these fields, and the entry tax, which they will have to pay to accede to this partnership. Negotiations of a technical nature are being held and they require some time, because this is a new process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the action of the government in particular, Algeria as a whole is in need of a consensus around the big issues to get the country out of the crisis. However, it seems that, in the shadow of the debate taking place right now with the political parties, and as far as I know, there have not been any big steps taken because matters are still related to the issue of resuming or not resuming the elections process. So, in your capacity as head of government, **how do you conceive the way to reach a consensus that will enable your government or another government to work in order to get the country out of the crisis?**

[Abdesselam] **I think that consensus** from the government's point of view can be reached through frankness. We are putting our cards on the table with the definition of aims that are common to everybody. We have to convince people that these aims are related to the interests of the country, its independence, and its existence. **These objectives are related to the recovery of the country, and the recovery of the country is a condition for the salvation of all.** [passage omitted] Concerning the parties, some of them are only interested in elections. When the elections come, they do something, and when there are no elections, they keep quiet. What matters to us is that there is cohesion and mobilization within society around the country's issues. If time allows and creates conditions for the return to elections, then so be it. However, I do not think that elections will be successful if there is no change within society itself. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, with regard to the situation in the southern part of the country: recently hundreds of Malians have voluntarily returned to their country. Can it be said that the situation along our border has been brought under control—I mean the movement of people, and ultimately stopping the hemorrhage which cuts into our national economy and the smuggling of commodities?

[Abdesselam] There are issues that have been improved; there are other problems still outstanding. We have prepared a special program for these regions, which includes the economic, security, and social issues. We will not go into details, because this is time-consuming, but we are interested in this issue. With the program we are applying, there are special measures relating to the security issue. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, the last question: What is your opinion of or impressions about the results of the U.S. presidential election?

[Abdesselam] In short, we can say that there is a change in the president [laughs]. What do we note? This is a new president who, contrary to the outgoing president, says that the economy cannot advance without the intervention of the state; the old language used to say that the state should leave the economic sphere alone. He is saying that the state should intervene, because in the event of a crisis the state cannot stay outside. Second, he says that the economy cannot flourish if we ignore the social problems. His program is based [words indistinct] U.S. democracy cannot live or felt ('if the social situation) remains as it is. Therefore, he is concentrating everything on the social aspect. In general, people should not [word indistinct]; this is a superpower—a big state—the policy of the big states with regard to abroad is constant. It does not change. Perhaps when the party or government is changed, there may be some softening, but the major axes of the policy do not change. One should not be mistaken about this. As for Algeria, with regard to relations with the Americans, our relations have been good right from the very beginning. We never had special problems with the Americans. The problems we sometimes had with the Americans used to concern non-Algerian reasons—solidarity with our brothers in the Arab East, solidarity with the Palestinians, and solidarity with other countries which used to be somewhat oppressed such as Vietnam or others. These were the problems. We have had good relations with America. With the settlement of problems in the world, there are no complicated problems or other difficulties with the Americans. Historically, we never had a major problem. It is said that, when the Americans achieved their independence, the first state to recognize them was Algeria [laughs]. [passage omitted]

Seven 'Terrorists' Arrested

LD2211231792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] We learned today from the Ouargla military court that a gang of seven terrorists was arrested recently and brought before the military court. The gang includes senior executives and clerical staff from a number of public enterprises and an imam. Military weapons, including seven hand-grenades, which were found in the possession of these people, were also confiscated.

The gang, which had various means of communication such as fax machines and radio sets, in addition to various political pamphlets, was active in the Biskra region. The same source added that these terrorists, who appeared before the military prosecutor last Thursday, admitted the charges brought against them, including carrying out attacks and acts of sabotage and committing offenses harming the security of the state.

Egypt

Exiled Shaykh Calls for Islamic Revolt

LD2011153792 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] London, Nov. 20, IRNA—The future of Egypt will be in the hands of Muslims, who will take the power of the government from the aggressors who hold it now, says Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Speaking with uncompromising conviction, he says the government of Husni Mubarak is against Islam, has no

respect for justice and issues that the Egyptian president should suffer the same fate as his assassinated predecessor, Anwar al-Sadat.

In an interview with Robert Fisk of the London INDEPENDENT, who tracked the exiled blind shaykh down at a makeshift mosque in New York, the Egyptian spiritual leader said that the victory for Islam would be represented in glad tidings. "The people know the truth. They are against corruption. They will stand up and revolt against this; they will fight for their freedom." The 54-year-old shaykh, who has been blind since he was a baby, has lived in exile in England, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, before going to the U.S. But he said his stay in the United States would only be temporary.

For the religious leader, who was a scholar of Cairo's al-Azhar University and lecturer in theology at Asyut University, it was Washington that was behind all un-Islamic governments and tried to keep them strong, wanting to defeat all Islamic movements. He said that for example, America was against the Islamic government in Sudan and against the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, while in Egypt, it helped the government to oppress Muslims, to kill them and imprison them.

The journalist referred to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman as Egypt's equivalent to the late Imam Khomeyni and spoke of tape recordings of the blind religious leader being smuggled into Egypt, which added parallels to events leading to the Islamic revolution in Iran.

His religious duty, he said, was to continue his work on behalf of the people for Allah and to work for the fall of governments which do not rule by the shari'ah law.

Says Mubarak To Meet al-Sadat's Fate

NC2111081592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] One of the Islamist leaders has said that Islam has roots in Egypt and that the country's future belongs to the Islamists.

Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman [leader of the Islamic Group, currently living in the United States] said that the fate of the head of the Egyptian regime, Husni Mubarak, will be the same as that of his predecessor, [slain President] Anwar al-Sadat, calling on the world's nations not to visit Egypt. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman said the Egyptian regime is fighting Islam, spreading vice and immorality, and trying to eradicate Islamic values in the country.

Minister Accuses Iran of Striking at Tourism

NC2011163892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Fu'ad Sultan, tourism and civil aviation minister, has accused Iran of seeking to strike at tourism in Egypt by instigating terrorist attempts to shake Egypt's security and stability. He explained that the Egyptian people are fully aware of these designs on tourism, which represents an enormous source of income for Egypt.

At a news conference in London today, Sultan expressed confidence that the Egyptian people support measures that the government has taken to secure tourism. He said that the Egyptian people have criticized their government for not adopting firmer measures against extremists. He said that Egypt lives in an atmosphere of real democracy. He also stated that the Egyptian people are quite capable of confronting the terrorist campaigns unleashed by foreign forces trying to export terrorism to Egypt.

Official Interviewed on 'Threats'

JN2011200292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1809 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian Presidential Office for Political Affairs, by Faridah al-Shubashi and Salim Badawi in Paris, carried within the weekly "Event" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [al-Shubashi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz: What, in your view, is the reason, or is there a link between the escalation of terrorist attacks in Egypt on tourists and the escalation of Iranian attacks against Egypt and its role in the Gulf region?

[Al-Baz] There might not be a direct link between these two events. However, one cannot deny that Iran plays a continuing role in supporting the forces of extremism, violence, and terrorism in the region in more than one Arab country. We were surprised at the recent Iranian escalation because all that the president said, in his speech at the opening session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council on 14 November, was that if Iran wanted to establish sound, healthy relations with the Arab countries, it should abide by two specific things. The first is that it should not try to impose its hegemony over the Arab states in the Gulf region. The second is that it should stop interfering in the internal affairs of Arab and Islamic states because it is not the custodian of Islam, and is not entitled to monopolize the right to speak on behalf of Islam. Had it really been pursuing a cordial policy toward the Arab and Islamic states, Iran would not have been offended by such words. They felt like a culprit who is about to say: Here I am, take me. They interfere in others' affairs and are involved in acts of violence and terrorism in more than one Arab country. They were upset, but we say that such an escalation does not serve relations between the two peoples, and certainly does not serve Iran or the Iranian regime. The Egyptian people greatly disapprove of such methods of attacking their leadership and the state itself.

[Badawi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Iran replied to the accusation that it is involved in the operations and events taking place in Egypt by threatening President Mubarak with death. What is your official reply to this threat?

[Al-Baz] We consider this mere talk; we do not care for it. We consider it excessive talk and decline in the language of dialogue. We do not pay attention to such threats, which only serve to demonstrate the level and method reached by the Iranian leadership in dealing with other states, contrary to the civilized method observed by states when dealing with one another. This is especially true if it claims that it has a special relationship with the Arab and Islamic states. Our reply to this is that we ignore this method; we categorically reject it and believe that by doing so, Iran has deprived itself of good and sound relations with Egypt. Rectifying and restoring relations with Egypt have always been an Iranian demand. Thus, Iran has deprived itself of this privilege and it has chosen to be isolated from the basic part of the Arab and Islamic world, because any enmity toward Egypt is a blow to the antagonizing party's relationship with a large number of Arab and Islamic states.

[Al-Shubashi] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, you are in charge of contacts with Sudan on the issue of Hala'ib. Have you raised the issue of terrorism, particularly the Iranian role in it, with Sudanese officials?

[Al-Baz] We basically talk about Egyptian-Sudanese relations. However, within the framework of our discussion on the overall situation in the region, we do not hesitate to tell our Sudanese brothers or others of the concern a large number of the Arab states, not only Egypt, have about the Iranian penetration of certain African states. In this penetration, Iran uses some Arab countries, including Sudan. This is an important issue because it is linked to pan-Arab security, both now and in the future. Any negligence in this regard will be a breach of the concept of the nation, be it the Arab or Islamic nation. Therefore, our opinion is very clear to the brothers in Sudan. The issue is not one of obtaining some privileges or creating balances in Sudan's relations with parties here and there, nor is it an issue pertaining to the will of Gulf states to establish a special relationship with Iran. We do not object to any Arab party seeking sound and healthy relations with Iran. But to allow Iran to use Arab forces, whether a state, system, or institutions, to negatively influence others and threaten pan-Arab security is a pressing issue which we view seriously.

And a great deal of the reckless and hostile Iranian reaction to the president's remarks prove that it actually believes that the president. [sentence incomplete as heard] This is because the president did not attack, criticize, or slander it. He said that if Iran wants to establish sound relations with the Arab world, it must abide by this and that. The Iranians resorted to this because they do not want anyone to talk to them, expose their plans, or warn the Arab and Islamic nation against the dangers of such Iranian policy. We say that this Iranian approach will pose a threat to Iran itself in the future. It threatens the Iranian people and Iran's relations with Arab and Islamic nations.

[Badawi] Iran believes that Egypt is playing an effective role in the peace process—a role which conflicts with Iran's stands toward the entire Middle East peace process. We should seize this opportunity to ask your excellency the following question, especially since the current problems in Egypt target its role, reputation, and image abroad, particularly in the Middle East and the region. So, Egypt is aware of these dangers. However, how does Egypt view its future role? Will it retreat? Does it see a clear picture of future peace, taking into consideration that the role it is requested to play these days is desired more than at any time in the past to help reactivate the regional peace process?

[Al-Baz] First of all, we do not pay attention to what is being said concerning Iran seeking to distort Egypt's image or to slander its leadership and policy in any forum. This is because Iran is a party that is neither accepted in the region nor on the international level. So, it cannot determine the state of affairs of other parties. This is because the Iranian state of affairs itself leaves much to be desired. Iran's testimony against or in favor of any state will add nothing to facts on the ground. On the contrary, if Iran offends a certain country, then most states of the world consider this very good testimony in favor of that country. Regarding the issue of peace, we are not leading the peace process far from Arab unanimity or accord. There is a pan-Arab accord among all states and parties adjacent to Israel. These states want to test Israel's intentions toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Fraternal Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and all the Palestinian people seek to test the sincerity of Israel's intentions to live in peace with the Arabs on just and equal terms, which are void of concepts of supremacy, hegemony, or anything of that nature. This is the decision of the Arab people. Iran does not have the right to oppose this, because no one asked it to establish relations with Israel. In fact, Iran was the first to establish relations with Israel. Even under the current regime, Iran did not hesitate to hold contacts with Israel and extend a good deal of aid to it. In return for this, it obtained weapons from Israel. Cooperation in such fields—military and secret cooperation—is considered the highest level of cooperation among states. There is a difference between Egypt's dealing with Israel as a neighboring state, with which we want to agree upon a certain formula of coexistence in the region based on respect for rights and the sovereignty of each party, provided this is a declared position. Whether at times of war or peace, we entered more confrontations with Israel than Iran did. But, saying something and concealing another, plus these clandestine dealings, only expose the ones who do this. We also do not pay attention to this at all. If Israel is really serious about achieving peace, the current negotiations will bear fruit. This may be delayed until spring or even later, but Iran cannot stop the march?

[Badawi] Thank you, Dr. al-Baz.

Al-Baz: Iran 'Wants' Tense Situation

NC2111174092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Paris, 21 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs,

has stated that the information campaigns between Egypt and Iran were set off by Iran. In a statement to the RADIO L'ORIENT broadcast today, al-Baz said that Iran should respect the Arab parties and translate this respect into deeds rather than mere words.

Al-Baz said that the investigations conducted so far regarding the acts of terror inside Egypt proved that certain members who took part in these criminal acts, whether against tourists or Egyptian targets, entered Egypt secretly from Sudan. He said that this is a serious issue and we do not want the brothers in Sudan to do such things.

Speaking about Egyptian-Iranian relations and Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the information campaigns between Egypt and Iran were started by Iran. We do not want strained relations with anyone, he said, adding that "President Mubarak advised Iran what it should do if it wants good ties with the fraternal Arab and Islamic countries." He said that all that is required from Iran is not to treat the Arab countries in the Gulf region as if they were living under its hegemony. Iran should not view itself as a custodian or give itself the right to exercise its custodianship over Islam and Muslim affairs.

Dr. al-Baz said that we had imagined that Iran would say that it did not want to interfere in the domestic affairs of any country or to extend its hegemony to the Gulf countries. We had thought that Iran would say that it wanted to be a party seeking to strengthen security and stability in the region and not to threaten these countries. We had expected Iran to define its concept of achieving collective security in the Gulf, a security in which the Iranians and Arabs would share. Instead, Dr. al-Baz said, Iran engaged in unimaginable recriminations unacceptable between countries, especially if it considers itself a fraternal country. We can see no reason other than that Iran wants to make the situation tense. The situation does not warrant this tension in ties and escalation. Iran should know that this state of affairs does not serve its interests.

Asked if Iran is increasing its military capabilities tangibly, as various sources affirm, and whether there is indeed a nuclear danger, Dr. al-Baz said that we do not have enough information to say that Iran is on the verge of obtaining nuclear capabilities. Iran has made several attempts to obtain technology, certain material, and scientists in this field, but we do not want to level accusations or doubt anyone without sufficient tangible evidence. He said that at one time in 1974-75 Iran cooperated with us and Iran and Egypt submitted a common initiative at the United Nations to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. Egypt, he said, launched a similar initiative to cover all weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. al-Baz further said that Western countries and numerous others are trying to ban the manufacture and use of chemical weapons. Iran, he said, could play a positive role and again endorse our idea about making the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological, and nuclear. He pointed out that Iran can deal with the Arab countries and all the Gulf countries without obtaining large quantities of weapons. We have seen in the case of Iraq that amassing large quantities of arms and using them brought about odious and negative consequences in fraternal Iraq and the entire region. Iran should learn this lesson and know that countries can live in peace and stability "not through force but through good relations and interaction based on respect for the will of others. Dr. al-Baz said that Iran should respect the Arab parties and translate this into deeds rather than words.

Asked about remarks by the Egyptian interior minister that terrorist groups use Sudan as a springboard for their operations against Egyptian society, particularly after the attacks against tourists, and whether this issue was raised in his recent talks with the Sudanese delegation, Dr. al-Baz said that in the talks with the Sudanese brothers we focused on ending the border dispute. The Egyptian-Sudanese demarcation line is clear and well-known according to the treaty of 1899, at parallel 22. We therefore believe that there is no room and no reason to raise differences over the border. Nonetheless, there was misunderstanding over the border issue and we are trying to resolve it. He added: On several occasions, we talked with our brothers in Sudan. We indeed consider them brothers because there are strong bonds between the two countries and we want to maintain close ties between the twin peoples in the north and south of the Nile Valley. We complained to them about certain Sudanese practices. We were unhappy with the Sudanese position on the Gulf war and we told them about this in view of our neighborliness, proximity, and fraternity. We believe that if Sudan continues to help terrorist groups harm Egypt's national security it will be a very serious issue, because it will prevent us from achieving real fraternity and deepening national ties with Sudan.

Dr. al-Baz said that the investigations conducted so far demonstrated that certain members who took part in the criminal terrorist operations in Egypt, whether against tourists or Egyptian targets or citizens, entered Egypt secretly through Sudan. It was well known that they came to carry out certain criminal terrorist plans. This is a serious issue and we do not want the brothers in Sudan to do this. We hope they will know well that this issue specifically involves the Egyptian people and is not a dispute between the two governments. The entire Egyptian people view any security disturbance as a very serious issue. We hope that our brothers in Sudan will reconsider their stand and completely refrain from doing anything that may harm Egypt's national security.

Interior Minister Notes Infiltration Attempt

NC2111163892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1409 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has declared that

another attempt to penetrate Egypt's borders was foiled yesterday. He said that attempts to penetrate Egyptian borders continue but there is no cause for concern because the security organs perform their duties. He stressed that all attempts to penetrate the borders have been foiled.

In a statement before the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee today, Musa said that the security department is playing its role satisfactorily. He pointed out that certain countries do not want Egypt to emerge from the bottleneck or to remain a pioneer and leader in the region. He said that the interrogations of the members of the two organizations who were recently captured proved that their members received training abroad and entered Egypt through Libya and Sudan.

Musa said that security is the basis for the development process and called for further support from the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council regarding legislation and other methods to confront terrorism. He said we are living in an age of freedom and democracy but democracy does not mean murder and sabotage. He added: We are not (?disturbed) by criticism as long as it is sound. He said that every establishment should play its role, noting that loyalty and affiliation should be for Egypt and its land.

Musa stated that the police departments arrested 80 percent of the suspects in the recent acts of terror. He said that the security agencies have curtailed their campaigns out of concern for democracy and they examine their decisions so that they will not harm innocent people. He said that these terrorists are "tools" and their agentry and service to foreign regimes are disgraceful, adding that the terrorists tried to kindle sectarian sedition, but failed because the Egyptian people are one fabric. The terrorists then turned to strike at tourism to embarrass the government. The difficult equation is to ensure a secure atmosphere for tourists without feeling a security presence, because tourists do not want to go places where there is even a 5 percent risk.

Musa pointed out that violence has become an international phenomenon and that confrontations between governments and outlaws are characterized by violence. He noted that even in stable countries such as the United States, the current world superpower, which enjoys economic and democratic stability, 38,000 people were arrested within 24 hours during the recent acts of violence. [sentence as received] The same situation prevails in France where the interior minister has been given numerous powers.

Former Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi spoke before the committee. He said that these incidents conflict with the nature of Egypt and its people. He said that the security agencies have been shouldering duties beyond their capabilities and their current role is confined to addressing the results but not the causes. He said that the roots of the problem should be addressed so that the security agencies and the people may have respite. He stressed the need for the government to concentrate its efforts with the political and social forces, primarily the political parties, to combat the extremists and violence.

'Terrorist Plan' To Attack Police Thwarted

NC2111125992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The security services have foiled a terrorist plan by extremist elements to attack police installations, some bridges, and private homes of important figures in Cairo; assassinate a number of police officers; and trigger panic and disrupt security in various governorates in Egypt.

A responsible security source told MENA that this plan was thwarted in the course of police efforts to eliminate terrorist elements operating under the cover of religion. He said this also took place in implementation of instructions by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa regarding the need to pursue and arrest these people, particularly the fugitives, involved in murder and robbery.

Explosion Reported in Dayrut; No Casualties

NC2111141892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Dayrut, 21 Nov (MENA)—A responsible security source has said that an explosion this afternoon in Dayrut, Aswan Governorate was triggered by a device which someone believed to be an extremist was trying to get rid of before fleeing the scene. Shreds of a leather case believed to belong to the extremist—and inside which he had hidden the device—were found at the explosion site.

The explosion did not cause any casualties or material damage. The prosecution office has been informed so it can begin investigating the incident.

AL-AHRAM Gives Suggestions for Clinton

NC2111151792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has called on President-elect Bill Clinton to take certain steps after assuming office in January to restore equilibrium to the political situation in the Middle East so as to create a real chance for the progress of the peace talks.

In its commentary today, the paper says that it has become clear after a year of talks that these talks have not made much progress because of Israel's reluctance to take a clear stand with regard to the basic principles endorsed by the international community as a basis for the talks, chiefly the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The paper calls on Clinton to take the following steps:

1. Ensure the commitment of all parties to the principles on which the talks are based. Such principles should be employed as guidelines for the talks.

2. Initiate the formation of a UN committee cochaired by the two sponsors of the peace conference. The function of this committee will be to guarantee that the talks will proceed in keeping with the guidelines and ensure that the talks will not go around in circles. There may also be a need to formulate certain objectives and set a timetable for their achievement. In the event that these objectives are not met, there will be a need for reevaluation and guidance.

3. Intervene firmly and directly with the sides to the talks to prevent them from using military escalation as a bargaining chip.

4. Restore dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets General People's Committee

LD2111172792 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Within the context of his inspiring and guiding role in consolidating the popular structure and the establishment of people's power in a way that will realize the model of the popular jamahiriyah, so that the people's authority may be manifested on earth, for the first time ever, in the form of communes as a step toward the establishment of Utopia, the brother leader of the revolution has met the General People's Committee in its new form. This followed the establishment of the communes according to the new administrative structure and the selection by the masses of secretaries for their people's congresses and committees.

The leader of the revolution shed light on the tasks entrusted to the General People's Committee according to the new popular structure. This is based on vesting all authority in the communes and reducing the role of the General People's Committee in order to facilitate the continuous concentration of power within the commune, or mahallah. This in turn is tantamount to an internal independent mini-state or miniature jamahiriyah, taking whatever measures it wishes for its own local interest. The commune has its own budget and runs its own affairs through a people's congress; all the commune's masses participate in the decision-making of the people's congress and a people's committee carries out whatever the people decide within the commune, or mahallah.

Misinterpretation of Jamahiri System Assailed

LD2011200792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 20 Nov (JANA)—The JANA local affairs editor has written the following:

In reporting and dealing with events relating to the setting up of people's power in the Great Jamahiriyah, the media have habitually used political terms and descriptions that bear no relation to the jamahiri system in the Jamahiriyah.

Such terms as parliament and government, for instance, do not exist in the jamahiri system. What took place at the General People's Congress was the selection of members of the General People's Committee and of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, which is the coming together of the people's congresses, committees, and professional unions and associations. That forum only drafts resolutions which the masses reach in their people's congresses, and has no representative form or procedure. The world had watched the congress proceedings and its ways of direct popular selection.

We entertain the hope that objective investigations will take place based on the truth and on historical fact, so that such issues may be dealt with in a way that sheds light on facts and propagates them in the search for credibility and the appreciation and enrichment of human effort to reach radical solutions to mankind's problems. What is happening in Libya should be seen within that framework.

What is happening in Libya, a small part of the world, carries within it a deep philosophy which has not yet been reached by any other society except Libya itself. In Libya's small society, the people's power and wealth are held by all the people and there is no place for military institutions, as everyone is trained in the use of weapons. The Libyan Arab people have divided themselves into small communes throughout the Libyan Arab territory in order to establish a new administrative structure. The small commune has its own people's congress and committee and its requirements are specified only by the people living in it. They know best what their rights and duties are in their little jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The small Libyan commune was born of the people's power and the people's congress, which makes decisions, and of the people's committee, which implements them. It came as an expansion of the exercise of power and decision-making; all the people make decisions without any representation. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Foreign Minister Gets Letter From Saudi Minister

JN2111172792 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, Nov 21 (GNA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbor Al Thani received a letter today from the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The letter was conveyed by the Saudi ambassador here, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hamad al-Shuhayb at a meeting with the Qatari foreign minister.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY said that the letter included an invitation for Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbor Al Thani to take part in the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference which will be held in Riyadh on Dec. 1 to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the tragedy of Moslems there caused by the continued Serbian aggression.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Discusses Gulf Council, Qatar, Clinton

LD2211105392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Nov (KUNA)—Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, stressed in an interview published here today that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is a strong entity which has been founded to stay and that it will continue no matter how many and how variant the views are.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, King Fahd expressed his conviction that the forthcoming GCC summit to be held in Abu Dhabi will issue many important resolutions which will reaffirm to the world that the GCC is stronger than those who do not want it to continue may think. He said: "We will preserve this grouping even if we differ about some issues, because differences sometime remove impurities and further the development of the matter under discussion." He added that the formula of cooperation in the GCC is well-liked because we, according to this formula, may have differing views on some issues, but these differences do not necessarily mean that there is a difference from well-known standards; if such differences do occur they may not reach an impasse. This assures us that the formula of the GCC as a whole is not threatened with failure or discontinuation.

King Fahd said that the nature of the GCC founder-states is closer to harmony than estrangement, and this makes us confident that these states cannot distance themselves from it because of merely incidental differences or a difference of opinion with regard to some issues.

In his reference to the GCC and Gulf unity, King Fahd reaffirmed that "we were admired for our cohesion when we restored Kuwait to its people and evicted the invader who did not deny that his aims went further than Kuwait and its boundaries." He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia views the differences which sometimes occur among the GCC member-states from the angle that they sometimes lead to correction of trends in a better manner, and therefore it is wrong for anyone to imagine that he can trade with our differences and blow them up, because differences can occur among brothers within one family and because the GCC cannot be weakened by a passing summer cloud. He added that our view in Saudi Arabia was and still is—amid circumstances of difference in views about the border with Qatar—that this subject should be dealt with in the ways which we all like and which we are accustomed to at all our meetings and consultations, because we do not want to give an opportunity to any foreigner outside to exploit how we envisage the solution of our differences. In this regard, he said that with the return of Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani to his country the difference in views between the regimes [nizam] may have found a space through which it can be viewed more comprehensively and in a spirit that derives its foundation from the fraternal ties that exist among the states of the region.

In reply to a question regarding the outcome of the U.S. presidential election and the triumph of Democratic Party candidate Bill Clinton, he replied that President Bush has entered history because he gave the U.S. role a special gleam; he adopted an unforgettable stand toward those who tried to violate international sanctities. We appreciate the fact that he translated into reality the contents of the U.S. pledge. He added that President-elect Bill Clinton has a good record through his practices and the important posts he has assumed; this gives him a strength compatible with his new post which is of interest to many world leaders who know the importance of the U.S. role internationally.

King Meets With German Economics Minister

LD2111194992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Su'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann and the delegation accompanying him in his office today. [passage omitted]

Muhammad Abu-al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, has stated that he discussed with his German opposite number ways of consolidating economic cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Germany. He pointed out in a statement to SPA that the visit of the German minister has been an

opportunity to follow up the work of the Saudi-German joint committee which met in Riyadh earlier this year.

Yemen

Public Sector Workers Strike Over Election Delay

20 Ministries 'Paralyzed'

AB2211115092 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Nov 22 (AFP)—Most of Yemen's public sector workers went on strike Sunday to protest a delay in holding elections, the opposition said, but for many shops in the capital it was business as usual.

About two-thirds of the shops along the busy Ali Abdul Mogni avenue in downtown Sanaa stayed open.

Twenty ministries, the city's university, schools and most banks were paralyzed, despite an appeal against the strike from the ruling parties, said Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, spokesman for the National Congress opposition group.

He said the 24-hour strike called by the opposition was also observed by several public sector departments in major cities, notably Aden, Mukalla, Taez and Hodeida. [passage omitted]

Group Sees 'No Justification' for Strike

JN2211084892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] The secretariat of the conference of political parties and organizations has issued a statement in which it affirmed that stemming from absolute eagerness to safeguard national interests and to maintain Yemeni unity, and in assertion of the exercise of democracy, the secretariat has studied the current situation in the country and found that there is no justification for the call for a comprehensive strike at the current critical stage experienced by our Yemeni homeland. Such circumstances require a responsible and serious position to look for solutions and ideas which would help us circumvent these difficulties. The secretariat affirms that despite its belief in the uselessness of the strike under the current circumstances, it does not deny others' right to the freedom of expression.

The statement also covers a number of issues related to urging unity to contribute toward preparations for the elections. The secretariat comprises the following parties and organizations: The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Republican Party, the National Democratic Front, the Yemeni Renaissance Movement, the Democratic Nasirite Party, The Liberation Front Party, the Arab Ba'th Organization, the Revolutionary Democratic Party, the Social Nationalist Party, the National Cohesion, the United Democratic Front, the Preparatory Committee for Nasirite Correction, the Democratic September Organization, the Popular Front for Salvation, the Nasirite Hawks Party, the Yemeni Shura Party, the Yemeni Peace Party, the General Federation of the Yemeni Trade Unions, the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity, and the Popular Democratic Union.

In a statement distributed yesterday, a number of parties affiliated with the National Congress called for a general strike to protest the constitutional announcement postponing elections until 27 April. These parties are: The Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization, the Yemeni Unionist Grouping Party, the Right Party, League of the Sons of Yemen Party, the Nasirite Correction Party, the Popular Forces Union, the Constitutional Liberals Party, and the Islamic Monotheism and Action Movement.

GPC-YSP Statement

JN2111212192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Joint political statement" issued by the General People's Congress, GPC, and the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, in Sanaa on 21 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O brother compatriots, O proud Yemeni masses: The Presidential Council issued a political statement on Saturday, 14 November 1992, postponing the date for holding general elections, and setting Tuesday, 6 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 27 April 1993, as the new date for holding elections for the Council of Representatives. The statement affirmed that the existing constitutional institutions represented by the Presidential Council, the Council of Representatives, the Council of Ministers, as well as all other state institutions, will continue to perform their tasks and exercise their powers in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, Articles 43 and 88 of which permit the postponement of elections under force majeure. These two articles also stipulate that all state institutions shall continue, under such circumstances, to perform their duties as legitimate and constitutional institutions.

That statement was issued in response to a letter addressed to the Presidential Council by the Higher Elections Committee, identifying the difficulties precluding the holding of elections on schedule; that is, before 22 November. In its letter, the Committee affirmed its inability to perform its tasks during what remained of the transitional period due to the failure to accomplish basic tasks related to the preparations for these elections. You are well aware that consultations with political forces to secure the passage of the Elections Law and form the Higher Elections Committee, in a manner that ensured the participation and representation of the political forces, took several months. Given this new development, out of a sense of national responsibility, and proceeding from concern to safeguard the national interests and the country's stability, the Presidential Council called for holding an expanded follow-up

meeting, which lasted six days. Various state institutions, as well as the political and partisan forces, represented on the Higher Elections Committee, attended this meeting. During this meeting, the letter addressed to the Presidential Council by the Higher Elections Committee as well as the objective circumstances and reasons contained in its letter, which were deemed good reasons for postponing the elections, were reviewed. In light of these consultations, all conferees agreed to postpone the holding of elections out of a sense of the historic responsibility they felt toward safeguarding the homeland's higher interests, and to allow the Higher Elections Committee and all political forces to consummate their preparatory tasks properly to ensure that elections will be held on the set and agreed-upon date; that is, 27 April 1993, in a manner that ensures all constitutional rights of voters and candidates alike.

Based on this, the YSP and the GPC urge all masses of our glorious Yemeni people, the political forces and parties, and the mass organizations to understand this special circumstance which has led to the postponement of the elections, and to act with a sense of responsibility and concern for the country's security, stability, and future at this critical phase in (four history), which requires [words indistinct] to spare the country any difficulties.

Brother citizens: The GPC and the YSP understand the motives behind the call made by certain political parties and organizations to stage a comprehensive strike if the transitional phase ends on 22 November 1992 without holding the general elections. Staging strikes is a right guaranteed by law. They, however, want these forces to appreciate the abnormal circumstance that forced everybody to postpone the elections. This was a necessity and was not based on a personal whim of this or that party. Calling for any type of strike under these circumstances will only lead to further complications and difficulties which we can all do without.

They also urge all the official and popular agencies and institutions to shoulder their national responsibility, and to provide the appropriate conditions for holding general elections on the set date. They also urge them to attend their work and show up at their places of employment tomorrow, Sunday 22 November 1992, in support of the country's economic resources and to help alleviate the burden placed on the citizens and offer the necessary services for them. They ask these institutions to abide by the Presidential Council's political statement and unite all tasks and basic ('controls) which should be given priority in implementation, as outlined by the statement.

Masses of our glorious people: The YSP and the GPC stress that it is natural to have differences over political issues under the democracy and freedom which our country now enjoys. They also stress that these differences can be resolved through dialogue instead of the political strike scheduled for tomorrow. On that basis, they invite all political forces and figures and mass organizations to hold further dialogue and reach an understanding to arrive at common denominators over the various issues under discussion.

We ask God to guide everyone to the path that would serve the country and the citizens. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Date] Issued in Sanaa on 21 November 1992.

Barzani Calls for Democratic, Parliamentary Regime

NC2111215292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2056 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani has stated that the Iraqi Kurds are not seeking (?separation) from Iraq, but are asking for a democratic Iraq with a parliamentary system and political pluralism. Any process for change must be implemented by the Iraqi people, he said.

Barzani's remarks came within an exclusive statement to AL-AKHBAR, to be published tomorrow.

He said if the Kurds' right to self-determination is conditional on nonseparation from Iraq, then the regime ruling Iraq must be radically different from the current one. It must be a democratic, parliamentary, multiparty regime, rather than a dictatorial, single-party one.

Barzani said some 200,000 Kurds have been killed since the current regime assumed power in Iraq.

Peace Movement Issues Statement on Ankara Meeting

NC2111181192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] The Movement of the Supporters of Peace in Kurdistan has issued a statement on the Turkish, Syrian, and Iranian foreign ministers' meeting in Ankara last week.

The movement said in its statement that some people's misunderstanding of the concept of federalism leads to the denial of the Kurdistan people's just, legitimate rights.

The movement urged the government of the three states to deal with the Kurdish issue in a civilized and modern manner, as our present age is one of dialogue, democracy, peace, and stability so that everyone can obtain his legitimate rights. The movement asked the three countries to deal directly with the peoples of Kurdistan and Iraq (?in line) with the principles of coexistence, solidarity, and human rights.

Kurdistan Government Comments

NC2011221592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Statement by official spokesman of the government of Iraqi Kurdistan in response to meeting of Syrian, Turkish, and Iranian foreign ministers in Ankara—date and place not given]

[Text] The tripartite meeting, held in Ankara on 14 November, was indeed held for the sake of interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs. The meeting targeted the aspirations of the Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans, and other minorities, as well as the parliamentary democratic process, which is opposed to Saddam and the dictatorship. The democratic process is forging ahead at a rapid pace to realize stability, peace, and brotherhood.

Undoubtedly, the inception of the government of Iraqi Kurdistan has come to fill the political and legal vacuum left after Saddam withdrew his forces and closed down his institutions in the Kurdistan governorates. It is obvious that the birth of the Kurdistan parliament was the fruit of free and democratic elections. Political observers and international reporters have affirmed that the elections stand as an example for democracy.

The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], which was held by the Iraqi opposition in Salah ad Din recently and in which all representatives of the Iraqi people—Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans, Assyrians, and other social and religious sects—had participated, has approved a federal democratic system for Iraq.

The tripartite meeting in Ankara was a blatant attempt to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs. The meeting's participants targeted the current democratic experiment in Kurdistan. The Ankara meeting opposed the UINC's aspirations and decisions, because the sides that took part in this congress would not agree to submit to the political will of any country intending to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The Ankara meeting runs counter to democracy. The democracy that is developing and growing in Kurdistan has become the focal aspiration of the Iraqi people and the region's nations. We therefore urge everyone, all advocates of freedom, and all countries to support our legitimate cause and to prevent any country from interfering in our affairs and from seeking to shake peace and stability in the region. We urge them to support by every means the Iraqi people's struggle for the sake of eliminating Saddam Husayn's regime and dictatorship. This regime will remain a source for wars, tragedies, and problems as long as it lives. Therefore, eliminating it will enable peace, democracy, and freedom to prevail in Iraq, Kurdistan, and the region.

Newspaper Urges Kurds To Accept Autonomy

JN2111110992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that those who betrayed Iraq know that the Kurdish question for the United States, the West, Iran, and other states in the region is no more than a card used to pressure Iraq to make it change its policy whenever this policy is against the West.

In an article today by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Mahsun, the paper says that Jalal Talabani and the rest of the clique that run after the foreigner know that the question of Kurds for these states is a bridge over which they cross the border of Iraq to tamper with its stability, shed the blood of its sons, squander its money, and prevent it from developing whenever there is a chance to do so.

The paper adds that Jalal Talabani knows the degree of vindictiveness harboured by these regimes against Kurds and their rights. Also, Jalal Talabani and the rest of the the cliques know all the details about the genocide, demolishing villages by artillery, flying over the heads of residents, mass executions, assassinating leaders, and banning the use of the Kurdish language and wearing the Kurdish costume, because he and the rest of the cliques have contributed to these actions. In fact, they provided an evidence that Kurds are being persecuted and were the spearhead in the genocide committed against their sons.

The paper adds: Now they went to America, Britain, France, Iran, Turkey, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. They were told: No Kurdish state; no federal state; no autonomy. The reason is not concern for Iraq's unity. It is rather concern for Turkey's unity as an ally with a strategic location, as well as concern for Iran's unity as an ally. Contrary to their claims, had they managed to divide Iraq alone into Arabs and Kurds without this affecting neighboring states, they would have done that without any hesitation.

The paper explains that the alternative that should be embraced by any fair person, whatever his religion or inclination, is to acknowledge that autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds is the best formula that pleases God and does justice to a nation which are about to die and perish because of the exploitation of their cause and the gambling on their destiny on the tables of politics.

The paper adds: All our Kurdish citizens have now discovered the whole truth after a regrettable long and harsh suffering. They are all now looking forward to seeing the departure of foreigners, ending the control of agent armed cliques, and opening a vein of life in the united body of Iraq, especially since the revolution has welcomed any serious dialogue, and had indeed begun such a dialogue to reach better formulas to implement the autonomy plan.

Concluding its article, BABIL says: Those who betrayed Iraq know better than others that the Kurds, who have always been persecuted everywhere, have never won their national rights away from racial discrimination, as well as their freedom, and their role as citizens and leaders, except on two occasions: Once under the rule of the Arab Islamic state and the second time under the revolution state led by Saddam Husayn.

Time Bomb Explodes in Kurdish-Area Hotel

NC2211161992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] A time bomb exploded in a room of the Baghdad Hotel in al-Sulaymaniyah at 1600 today. Three citizens were martyred and eight others wounded in the blast. The hotel and several nearby stores sustained damage. The party responsible for this terrorist act is not yet known.

SAIRI Claims Baghdad in 'State of Tension'

LD2211191192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] The Iraqi capital is in a state of tension, according to an announcement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. SAIRI said: Following the disturbances in Baghdad, Presidential Guard forces surrounded the city and are keeping a close watch on the people's movements. SAIRI also stated: Clandestine news sheets have been distributed in different parts of Baghdad, calling on the people's forces to intensify their opposition to Saddam's regime through greater unity and the formation of combat groups.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Said Guarding Nuclear Weapons

NC2011162792 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign news sources have recently reported that dissident members of Mojahedin-e Khalq, hosted by Saddam's regime, recently revealed extensive cooperation between the services of the tyrant and the outcast organization in hiding nuclear and chemical weapons. They said some of these weapons were hidden in the al-Khalis camp, 85 kilometers north of Baghdad. More were concealed in deep tunnels in an area owned by the regime's Agriculture Ministry 30 kilometers from al-Kut Governorate.

Our sources also said that a number of Mojahedin-e Khalq, who recently arrived in Europe, stressed that elements from the organization he abandoned are guarding an area in [word redacted] where the tyrant hides some of the weapons of mass destruction to [words redacted] the United Nations. It should be noted that the responsibility of guarding these regions was placed on Mojahedin-e Khalq after the recent quarrel between Saddam's mercenaries and the inspection teams around the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad.

Government, Rebel Action in South Reported

Regime Massacring Southerners

LD2211160592 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Units of the first division of Iraq's infantry have recently massacred a large number of people in the southern marshlands of Iraq, announced the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq here today.

According to the same source, Iraqi units shoot every individual without discrimination.

Another source here says that the Ba'athist regime of Iraq keeps the bodies of such people at mortuaries and delivers them to their families against 4,000 dinars per corpse.

The sources indicate that Iraqi infantry units routinely confiscate the assets and personal effects of their victims and set their houses on fire. They also take some as hostage.

Large-Scale Arrest Campaign

NC2211161692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Saddam Husayn's regime recently launched a large-scale arrest campaign in several areas and villages of the marshland triangle among the Governorates of al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, and [placename indistinct]. Our sources have learned that the arrest of civilians by Saddam's agencies are due to new orders and instructions from the tyrant regime. These instructions provide for the arrest of civilians between ages 12 and 55. Saddam's agencies transport these detainees to unidentified camps north of [word indistinct] Parallel and hold them as hostages to bargain with their families [words indistinct].

These aggressive measures are carried out by the regime's henchmen [words indistinct] to mislead the United Nations committees. The revolutionary committees of Iraq's sons appealed to the United Nations, international organizations, and the world at large to help stop these inhuman practices against innocent citizens following growing popular rejection of Saddam's dictatorship, (?which controls) Iraq.

Rebels Attack Regime Forces

NC2111150892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1344 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the last few days, our heroic combat units (?confronted) the tyrant's personnel who attacked inhabitants of (al-'Atwaniyah) in [placename indistinct] in al-'Amarah Governorate. The units managed to kill or injure many of Saddam's [word indistinct] men, including a security officer with the rank of first lieutenant, in addition to other mercenaries.

Personnel belonging to Saddam, enemy of the people, had launched a campaign of arrests and raiding homes in al-'Atwaniyah.

[Words indistinct] the regime's failed and desperate (?attempts) to curb the escalating popular uprising against the failed regime.

Anti-Government Operations

NC2211160492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Our jihad groups continue to confront the tyrant's remnants and henchmen operating the so-called engineering project which has cut off the water supply to civilians including women, children, and elderly in the marshlands. Our heroic mujahidin last week attacked the criminal engineering effort in Ihsan Abu Sulaibikh in the Huwayzah marshlands. They destroyed three vehicles and one excavator used to implement the Saddamite engineering crime. Several of the tyrant's workers and eight of the mercenaries guarding the engineering effort were killed in the victorious operation.

Another revolutionary group of our rebellious nation established a military post on al-Kazamah Bridge linking al-Qurnah and al-Madinah in al-Basrah Governorate between 1900 and 2100 one day last week. Our military sources said that during the period that the bridge was under our mujahidin's control, leaflets carrying the news of our jihad groups were distributed to the occupants of passing vehicles. The cars first were searched for criminal 'Aflaqites. Several citizens expressed satisfaction at seeing and experiencing the Islamic ethics and good treatment by the mujahidin of the uprising, which seeks to free our [word indistinct] people from the 'Aflaqites' yoke.

Deputy Prime Minister Aziz Arrives in New York

JN2211091392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] New York, 22 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here last night leading a high-ranking Iraqi delegation on a visit to the United Nations.

In an official meeting tomorrow morning, Monday, 'Aziz will review before the UN Security Council Iraq's overall position on the unjust blockade that has been imposed by the UN Security Council under pressure from the Bush administration.

In his comprehensive statement to the UN Security Council, the deputy prime minister will emphasize Iraq's stand on what has been imposed on Iraq, especially Resolution 687, as well as the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the iniquitous blockade despite Iraq's honoring of its obligations.

Tariq 'Aziz will place the UN Security Council before its responsibilities and prove with evidence that the UN Security Council has not fulfilled its obligations toward the Iraqi people and has employed double standards in its dealing with Iraq and other issues of the region.

The deputy prime minister and the accompanying delegation are scheduled to hold contacts with the Non-Aligned Movement's envoys to the UN Security Council, envoys of other states, and with UN officials. 'Aziz is accompanied by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and a number of officials from the Foreign and Industry Ministries.

Russian Party Leader Opposes Blockade

JN1911124592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—A Russian politician has said the United States and Western states fear Iraq's revival because it will stand against their colonialist schemes and covetous designs in the region.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH published here today, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, said the Russian nationalist forces understand the true nature of the U.S. political objectives against Iraq and the reasons why the blockade is maintained. He stressed that these forces have expressed a position that rejects that policy and the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He also said the United States is trying to impose its policy on the world by force and opposes any trend to unite nations and countries.

He pointed out that the United States is trying through all means and ways to oppose the revival of Russia and other republics because such a revival would entail strong ties of cooperation with friendly countries, including Iraq.

He said the current political conditions in Russia are very bad and that the Russian people are passing through a very difficult phase because they were subjected not to a foreign aggression, but to a collapse which started from within and in which the U.S. intelligence services played a major and direct role.

He said: The United States took advantage of the deteriorating economic conditions and tempted the rulers with money. It succeeded in that venture, and this has generated feelings of frustration at what had happened.

The Russian politicians ruled out the possibility of elections in Russia similar to those held in Lithuania. He said Yeltsin will not allow elections in Russia because he knows they will mean the end of his dictatorial rule and the nationalist forces' assumption of power.

He added: Yeltsin is paying large amounts of money to buy off some people to oppose the elections.

Praises Saddam's Leadership

JN2111204092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Democratic Party, has praised the brave and wise positions of President Saddam Hussayn and the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the fierce, aggressive imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

At news conference held before his departure from Baghdad this evening, he said that his party and the Russian people admire and appreciate the Iraqi people for the sacrifices they offered during their just battle against U.S.-Western-Zionist hegemony.

The Russian dignitary referred to the imperialist-Zionist policies targeting the Arab region as well as the Russian people. He also affirmed that the United States and its ally, Israel, will not abandon their schemes and conspiracies in a region, which is considered the world's lifeline because of its important economic revenues.

Zhirinovskiy added that the Arabs in general, and the United States in particular, should abandon their current policy, cooperate with the region's states, establish balanced and sound relations based on noninterference in domestic affairs, and work out mutual interests in the service of all parties.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Democratic Party, expressed satisfaction with his visit to Iraq and the results he achieved.

Zhirinovskiy affirmed the Russian people's desire to establish strong ties with the Iraqi people—ties based on the common wishes of the peoples of both friendly countries, who are bound together by their joint struggle against imperialist-Zionist hegemony. During his visit to Iraq and his meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Hussayn, he felt an unmistakable desire to establish and promote this relationship between Iraq and Russia, given that the two countries are opposed to colonialism and Zionism, he noted.

Zhirinovskiy expressed his admiration for the courageous and wise leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Hussayn. He added: The peoples of the former Soviet Union, as well as strugglers in parliament and within other parties, wish to have a leader like Saddam Hussayn, who has become a symbol of nationalist leaders who adhere to their principles and defend the existence, unity, and future of their peoples. He affirmed that historians will write in the eternal annals of history on the wisdom and courage of His Excellency President Saddam Hussayn, and also on the steadfastness and strong determination of his people to confront the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq.

Concluding his news conference, the Russian official paid tribute to the immense efforts being made by Iraqis in the course of their endeavors to rebuild and reconstruct their homeland in record time in the aftermath of the devastation suffered during the aggression.

Clinton 3-Point Peace Plan Reported

TA2311062092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0501 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Is there a Clinton peace plan? Our political correspondent has learned that the president-elect's aides have formulated a three-point plan whereby Israel would recognize Syria's sovereignty in the Golan, Syria would announce the end of the state of belligerency with Israel, and the United States would drop Syria from the list of terror-supporting countries. Were this an economic plan, it would be called a package or a tripartite deal, but in this case we are talking about a global program for the Middle East. As said, the details of the plan have been learned by political correspondent Shlomo Raz:

[Raz] The main idea behind the plan is how to move the peace process out of the current stalemate. The emerging administration of President-elect Clinton estimates that this can only be done through the Syrian track. Although foreign affairs will not be a top priority of the new administration, the Middle East—not just economic and domestic problems—is one of the issues that will be handled during the first 100 days, a very important period for a U.S. president entering the White House.

Bill Clinton's advisers have been contemplating a tripartite deal to which each of the three partners would contribute its share: Israel would recognize Syrian sovereignty over the Golan; in exchange, Syria would announce the end of the state of belligerency with Israel, and the United States would drop Syria from the list of terror-supporting countries.

The plan will be no easy feat. A major snag will be the state of human rights in Syria. This is a very important issue for the new Clinton administration, and the appalling state of human rights in Syria could preclude its exclusion from the list of terror-supporting countries. Nevertheless, the tripartite deal may be a key component in the U.S. policy toward the Middle East and the promotion of the political process. In any event, this is the assessment of U.S. circles. [passage omitted]

Beilin 'Would Not Sign'

TA2311114692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin says he is encouraged by the fact that President-elect Clinton is already dealing with Middle East matters. His comments came after a Qol Yisra'el report this morning that Clinton's advisers are discussing a tripartite agreement involving Israel, Syria, and the United States. According to the report, Damascus would announce a cessation of belligerency, Israel would recognize Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights, and Washington would remove Syria from the list of states supporting terrorism. Reporter Mark Weiss asked the deputy foreign minister for his reaction to the plan.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Well, I didn't hear about it before; I'm not sure whether this is an official plan of anybody in the Clinton transition team. I believe that it might be just one of the options suggested to the new administration. If so, I'm encouraged by the mere fact that this administration is already dealing with the issues on our table, on our part of world. And I would like this administration...I hope this administration will be involved in the peace process. Referring directly to the three-point plan, I would not sign it.

[Weiss] Do you think the time has come for American intervention in the peace talks?

[Beilin] American intervention in the peace talks is taking place on a low profile. I believe that this low profile is very important and, maybe, in that point or another we will need a higher profile. [end recording]

Palestinians Reportedly Threaten To Quit Talks

TA2211095492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 92 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal, Gay Bekker, Ori Nir, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel delivered a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warning that it will quit the talks if no progress is made. In the letter, delivered by Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, demanded accelerated handling of the establishment of the self-administration council, and of the issues of lands, security, and administration arrangements. [passage omitted]

Eytan Haber, the prime minister's media adviser, said that he has heard about the letter from the press, but he does not know that it was handed to the prime minister. Haber added that Rabin offered to meet the Palestinian delegation on several occasions in the past if this could help promote the negotiations, but the Palestinians rejected the idea outright. [passage omitted]

Over the weekend, the Palestinians claimed that the Israeli autonomy plan for part of the territories is designed to break down the Jordan River east bank [as published] and the Gaza Strip into "Bantustans" (South African protectorates). According to a document distributed by the Palestinian representation in Cairo, "the Israeli plan does not allow the interim period of a five-year autonomy to reach the final stage of Palestinian self-determination."

"The Israeli plan speaks of breaking down the territories into Palestinian settlements which will theoretically be under the future Palestinian rule; Jewish settlements which will be subject to the Israeli authorities; and state-owned lands, the boundaries of which will be determined through negotiations, which will be jointly

governed," the document says. "This means that these lands will turn into disputes when the time comes."

Political sources in Jerusalem last night claimed that, following Yasir 'Arafat's instructions, the PLO has decided to torpedo the agreement Israel and Jordan made in the Washington about the agenda of the negotiations. The sources noted that the PLO pressure was already expressed by the fact that in the last round of talks the Jordanian delegation raised demands which were aimed at stalling implementation of the document of understandings between the two parties. The political sources expressed the fear that the PLO pressure could cause the Jordanians to go back on the document.

The delegations to the bilateral negotiations will brief the cabinet's weekly session today about the results of the seventh round of talks which ended in Washington on 19 November. Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, said last night that in the next round of talks, due to open on 7 December in Washington, Israel will demand a clear Syrian answer regarding the nature of the peace Syria is willing to agree to in return for an Israel commitment for withdrawal.

"We will demand that 'peace' be returned to the peace process," Rabinovich said. So far, the Syrians have only given vague answers on this issue. The time has come for them to make it clear what kind of peace they are willing to work for. On its part, Rabinovich said, Israel has no intention of bringing new proposals to the next round of talks. Israel will only present papers summing up and pointing out issues that were raised in the previous round.

He further said that in the course of negotiations, the Syrian delegation did not threaten to quit the talks if no progress is made at the beginning of Clinton's administration rule. He believes that the Syrians will not quit the talks and said that in the last day of talks there was even some progress. He refused to elaborate on this issue. [passage omitted]

Prof. Rabinovich added that there is a point in convening another round of talks soon because the current issues under discussion are very technical and the Americans have no interest in intervening in them. He also noted that the fact that the Arab delegations announced that they will attend the next round of talks on the date set by the Americans already at the end of the last round should be viewed as another positive development. [passage omitted]

PLO To Demand Representatives Join in Talks

TA2211203192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The PLO will demand from Israel to be permitted to include its representatives in the bilateral negotiations when the eighth round of peace talks open at the beginning of December in Washington. This was reported by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi upon his return from Tunis, where he and Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils in Israel, met with PLO leaders, including Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr. al-Tibi told our correspondent Gil Sadan that PLO leaders Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that if Israel and the United States did not bring new proposals to the next round of talks, the Palestinians may discontinue their participation. [passage omitted]

Delegates Return, Comment on Peace Talks

TA2011113592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] We came, we talked, we made no progress, and we have another date in December. This is the laconic summary of the seventh round of Washington peace talks. The Israeli delegates returned home this morning. Here is what Elyaqim Rubinstein said about the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] Basically the talks with the Palestinians were businesslike. There were many discussions in informal groups. As for content, I regret to say the conceptual gap has not been bridged as yet. Unfortunately, the Palestinians tend to focus on the tricky parts of the negotiations, parts which are often irresolvable in these negotiations—such as Jerusalem and so forth—instead of addressing, as we would very much like, a variety of positive proposals for the powers of the interim arrangements in fields which have not been dealt with so far, such as trade, industry, agriculture, municipal issues, health, education, water. We hope sincerely that the Palestinians will reach an understanding with us on the concept [preceding word in English], and then we will be able to move on to all these fields, as well as to issues such as the elections.

I cannot say I come bearing news, but the negotiations are continuing, will continue; there is no reason not to continue. [end recording]

And here are Uri Lubrani's observations about the seventh round of talks with the Lebanese delegation:

[Begin Lubrani recording] The events in the north in the first half of the seventh round had an acute impact on the work of the committee. There were a few days in which we were unable to do anything of substance because of the events in the north. In the past two or three days, however, we went back to a businesslike discussion of our proposal concerning talks between Army officers from both sides. We discussed an amended proposal, which accounted for the comments of the other side.

Toward the end of the round, we explained at length the amendments we introduced into the proposal. We wanted the Lebanese delegation to be able to present the matter to its superiors when it returns home, hoping that

when they return for an eighth round, we will be able to hold a realistic discussion. [end recording]

Our correspondent Jack Katzenell brings the remarks of Professor Itamar Rabinovich, who negotiated with the Syrians:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] The first part, prior to the consultations we held during the U.S. elections, was very good, very productive. The part which began on 9 November, after the U.S. elections, got off on the wrong foot. For reasons of their own, the Syrians very sharply, very tenaciously demanded to receive, first and foremost, a commitment for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, making everything else contingent on that.

Toward the end of the round, however, the Syrians said in no uncertain way that they will report for the talks on 7 December. Our last session was conducted in a very pleasant atmosphere. We were not on the verge of a joint statement or a joint declaration of principles—obviously, it was too late in the round for that—but I think both sides were seriously determined to achieve it in one of the next meetings, perhaps even the very next. We have laid the foundations, with each side telling the other how it believes progress should be made. [end recording]

Jordanian Demands To Amend Agenda Rejected

TA2211203592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Jordan has demanded amendments in the agreement on the agenda reached with Israel during the previous round of talks in Washington. This was reported by our political correspondent based on information received from sources in Jerusalem.

The Jordanians seek to play down the term peace agreement, which was described as the purpose of the talks, and Israel has refused to discuss this matter. Jordan has also requested to open the issue of the territories for future discussion.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the head of the Jordanian delegation, today said that Jordan sought to clarify that it does not accept Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PLO Official Responsible for West Bank Replaced

TA2011183592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that a number of pro-Fatah personalities in the territories recently sent telegrams to Yasir 'Arafat in which they thanked him for his decision to dismiss Jibril al-Rijub, who was responsible for the West Bank in Fatah's western sector apparatus, and appoint 'Izz-al-Din al-Sharif, alias Abu-Zryyad, and Ghazi al-Husayni responsible for the western sector. Those sources said that 'Arafat's decision came as a result of the conflict between Akram Haniyah, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for territories' affairs, and Jibril al-Rijub.

Prominent Arabs Visit Tunis, Confer With 'Arafat

TA2111183492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Two prominent Israeli Arabs, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, are currently visiting Tunis and have conferred with 'Arafat. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gut reports that the PLO leadership invited them to discuss the peace process. A meeting of the PLO's top men is currently under way in Tunis, with the participation of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Return With Message From PLO

TA2211132792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils, said upon his return from Tunis that he has brought an oral message for the prime minister and the foreign minister from Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that 'Arafat and Farouq Qaddoumi had told him they are disappointed and feel pessimistic with regard to the peace talks' future. In their view, Israel will have to accept the UN Security Council resolutions when the autonomy interim period is over.

Nimr Husayn confirmed that his trip to Tunis had been made in response to an invitation from the PLO leadership, and that he had not obtained approval from the Israeli authorities. He traveled together with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli Arab activist.

Ambassador to U.S. May Be Replaced 20 Jan

TA2211054492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has told Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to the United States, that he completes his term on 20 January, the day Bill Clinton is sworn in as President.

Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that Ambassador Shoval has asked to remain in the United States for another two months, until mid-March. Shoval discussed the matter with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and later told our correspondent that the announcement is technical and issued by the Foreign Ministry's Manpower Department.

Shoval said Bill Clinton's advisers dealing with relations with Israel believe that it is preferable for Israel to have

a veteran ambassador in Washington during the new administration's initial months.

Violent Attacks, Bombings Reported Over Weekend

'Terrorist' Sought for Car Bomb

TA2111093592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpts] A manhunt is in progress at this time after a terrorist fled from the car bomb in Ramat El'al armed with a gun. Dozens of policemen, police dogs, trackers, and a helicopter are engaged in the searches. The other two terrorists who were with him were apprehended earlier and have already been interrogated by the police. [passage omitted]

Two armed terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with a Border Police patrol in the village of 'Arrabah near Janin. The two were armed with a Galil submachine gun and six full magazines. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that they were shot and killed on the spot when they attempted to open fire at the policemen. The two are Amin Rahal, 29, and Ahmad al-Daqqa, 21, both members of the Janin area Black Panther squad who had been wanted for more than 18 months. They are suspected of murdering local residents whom they suspected of collaborating with the authorities and of carrying out terror acts against the security forces and Israeli citizens. Two other suspects were detained during the incident.

This morning in the village of Bal'a near Tulkarm, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit identified a wanted man and apprehended him after a short chase. During his detention, the IDF soldiers were pelted with rocks, and one of them sustained slight wounds in the head and was taken for treatment in a military clinic. The wanted man, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Khadir, is suspected of murdering and assaulting local residents whom he suspected of collaborating with the authorities and of possessing a weapon.

Young Arab Shot Dead

TA2311074892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] A 10-year-old Arab boy was killed this morning by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire at the al-Ram junction in Ramallah. An Army unit was carrying out an initiated operation in the vicinity of the junction when it noticed a group of Arab youths hurling stones and setting up roadblocks. The soldiers ordered them to halt, and when their orders were ignored, they fired at the group, killing a 10-year-old stone thrower.

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal adds that an Army doctor established the boy's death at the site of the incident. The Military Police Criminal Investigation Division has launched an investigation.

Explosives Found on Bus

TA2211124192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Police sappers at Qiryat Shemona's last bus stop managed to successfully neutralize four explosives packed in a single parcel on a bus which had arrived from Tel Aviv. When the passengers alighted the driver discerned a parcel left on the bus, and called the police. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that following the discovery of the explosives searches were conducted in Qiryat Shemona's last bus stop and on other buses. The Egged Bus Company is now investigating whether the bus driver had carried out all standing instructions, including a search of the bus before it left Tel Aviv.

An 18-year-old Arab girl from a village north of Jerusalem this morning stabbed a student of the 'Atzret Kohanim Yeshiva in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem. He sustained light to medium wounds. Another student fired at the assailant, wounding her slightly in the leg. An Arab resident was murdered about a week ago in the same area when a hand grenade was hurled in the meat market. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the assailant said in her initial interrogation that her brothers mistreated her, therefore she wanted either to be arrested or to die.

A 53-year-old woman was shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers during a riot in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nablus. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Army closed off the area and is investigating the circumstances of the incident. At 'Ayn Mudarriyah village near Nablus, two children were wounded this morning when a suspicious object with which they were playing blew up in their hands. The two were taken to hospital.

Invitation to 8th Round of Peace Talks Received

NC2011143092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received an invitation from the peace conference cosponsors—Washington and Moscow—to take part in the eighth round of peace talks, slated to be held in Washington on 7 December.

Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Bichev could not reach the Foreign Ministry because of a traffic jam. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, however, said after his meeting with Buwayz: On behalf of my colleague, the Russian ambassador, and on my own behalf I have extended an invitation to the minister from the conference cosponsors.

Asked his opinion about the current situation in the south, the U.S. ambassador said: It is very important to keep the south calm and prevent the situation from deteriorating again. He said anyone who can influence the region and the warring sides in the south should exercise this influence to keep the situation calm.

Coordination Meeting Planned

NC2311122092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today sent an official invitation to the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and the head of PLO Political Department to meet in Beirut on 29 November to assess the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks and coordinate for the eighth round, scheduled to begin on 7 January.

Nasrallah on 'Propaganda Onslaught' Against Iran

NC2111091792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah revolutionary movement, has stressed the Islamic revolution in Iran as the main factor for the deep transformation that has taken place among the region's Muslims.

The Hizballah secretary general said yesterday that the recent propaganda onslaught by a number of Arab countries in the region against the Islamic Republic is part of the latest plots by the powers of world arrogance.

He stressed that some regional countries have handed over the reins of their affairs to the West and the Zionists.

CAO Meets Bahraini Opposition, Issues Statement

NC2311093192 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 1, 10

[Text] Mohsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization [CAO], yesterday visited Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and discussed with him political developments in the country. The discussion also dealt with Israel's attacks on the south.

CAO Politburo Member Nusayr al-Az'ar yesterday met with a delegation of the Bahraini opposition representing "the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain," "the Popular Front in Bahrain," and "the Bahraini National Liberation Front." The CAO issued a statement on the talks. It said that the Bahraini delegation "explained the suffering of the Bahraini people as a result of the regime's repressive and undemocratic practices, which run counter to the country's Constitution."

The statement added that the CAO official confirmed the Lebanese citizens' solidarity with the struggle of the Bahraini opposition in defense of democracy and liberties to enable the Bahraini people to overcome the difficulties imposed by the backward regime.

The national and Islamic opposition forces in Bahrain have urged the people and key political figures to confront the authorities' attempts to impose "a national assembly." The three opposition fronts issued a joint statement stressing that the solidarity and unity of the ranks of Bahrain in confronting the authorities are bound to realize the joint supreme interests of the Bahraini people.

The statement called for "adherence to national unity to wrest the just rights, foremost being the safeguard and application of the Constitution." The statement called for "free direct elections for choosing a national assembly that will represent the people and express their constitutional rights." "It said that this assembly will realize the people's rights to form trade unions, parties, and various societies, and will emphasize their right of expression."

The statement "added that this assembly will revoke all oppressive laws that violate the Constitution and intimidate the people. It will ensure the release of all political detainees and prisoners and will establish the right to return of all those who had been forced by the political situation to live in exile," the statement said.

Leaders Commemorate Independence Day

General Lahhud Praises Army

NC2011221092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud today addressed the order of the day to the military to mark Independence Day. In his address, he affirmed that

Independence Day dawns on the military this year at a time when it is more powerful, united, and strong. It has worked throughout the past year with honor, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Gen. Lahhud pointed out that between the past and present, independence is not a national commemoration that repeats itself in a symbolic ceremony every year. It is a milestone for accounting and noting what the rights of the citizen and homeland are and what duties we have toward ourselves. Between justice and duty, there is a message that you have sworn to implement and safeguard. You are the vanguards and the group hoisting the banner.

The Army commander adds in the order of the day: As you eliminated internal barriers that were killing the homeland and the citizen, destroying the structure and the people, closing schools, shops, and factories to replace them with death, terrorism, and hunger, so you resisted an enemy in the south, an occupier of land, and usurper of rights.

While making your sacrifices internally and [word indistinct] in the south, you were waging inside your ranks the battle of true cohesion through the process of internal restructuring of the Army to cancel the effects of the events from the brigades and units. You succeeded in your cohesion wager, the wager of unity. There is not a single brigade or regiment left that is controlled by a sect, faction, or region. You have become a group consisting of the whole homeland for the whole homeland.

Gen. Lahhud concluded the order of the day by saying: This year the Army gave independence value by the efforts you exerted and sacrifices you have made. Much still awaits you and much is expected of you, because you are the pillar of this ancient Army. Your homeland becomes stronger through you, grows with you, and unites itself in your unity.

President Addresses Maronites

NC2111070892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On the eve of celebrations marking Independence Day, President Ilyas al-Hirawi delivered an important speech during festivities held by the General Maronite Council. During his speech, al-Hirawi affirmed that the peace process [in Lebanon] was started first and foremost to bolster the state, because the state is the solution and guarantee for a solution.

The president believes that political sectarianism cannot be removed if this would mean the elimination of one sect or citizen. But we support eliminating political sectarianism when it is removed first from minds and then from texts, he said.

President al-Hirawi affirmed that Lebanon will not rest or allow others to rest before the cherished parts of the south are returned to it. All those who become haughty toward Lebanon distance themselves from it. He added: Stability requires more than mere security. It requires construction, starting with the government by strengthening internal security. Here, the role of the government is to provide services, because mistakes cannot be averted by marking time out of fear of making such mistakes.

Defense Minister Gives Address

NC2111213392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1537 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Speech by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul at an Independence Day celebration at the Defense Ministry—live]

[Text] Your Excellency the President; Your Excellency the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Your Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister, representative of the prime minister; esteemed audience. On the eve of Independence Day, I am honored to be with you at this particular venue to welcome President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who gave this glorious day its brightest significance, at a time when the entire country was virtually heading toward further collapse, division, and fragmentation.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi assumed responsibility at a difficult and complicated stage, full of hardship and internal and external traps. Leaning on major fraternal support from Syria, however, he managed to steer Lebanon away from the schemes that targeted this cherished homeland. The march to restore the homeland was long and arduous. During the journey, we tried to piece the homeland together—individuals and soil. Through your sweat, struggle, and righteous blood, o soldiers, we managed to return the people to their state, and the state to its people.

The history of the black crisis that hit the homeland proved beyond any doubt that the area of the homeland shrank whenever the role of the unified national Army diminished, and that Lebanon grew bigger whenever the role of the Army grew.

Your Excellencies today we celebrate the anniversary of independence with pained hearts and extremely sad conscience. But we keep in our hearts the major and definite decision that this independence must be completed and that Lebanon must be a master on all its soil. Soon, o valiant soldiers, you will stand with your heads held high on the dear soil of the south and western al-Biqa —a part of our land suffering from direct occupation by the enemy or by its extensions. The occupation will definitely vanish, and a victorious Lebanon is inevitable.

I announce today that the state will not feel restful or calm until it restores security, freedom, and safety to every child in Lebanon, to everyone living in this homeland, and to every spot lacking in the political constants outlined by the current government. I once again and finally assert that national independence is a continuous struggle that must be entrenched by persistent action and efforts to raise this occasion toward higher levels on the

political, cultural, and economic fields. Independence is an integrated, cohesive, and comprehensive process that cannot be divided. As for you—Lebanon's officers and soldiers, the hope of united Lebanon—you have been the tool for the country's unity. You will remain in the conscience of the homeland; indeed, you are the conscience of this hoped-for homeland. You have given this homeland everything you possessed, and the homeland will not be stingy in giving you some of what it possesses. Long may you live and long live Lebanon.

President Addresses Army

NC2111171792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1542 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Speech by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at an Independence Day celebration at the Defense Ministry—live]

[Text] O military: On the eve of the 49th anniversary of independence, I feel glad and happy. At the same time, I feel bitter and sad. I am happy that I am visiting an institution about which many obsessed people have said what they have said. Those people did not know the truth. The established fact is the oath to the Lebanese flag taken by our officers and soldiers, not personal whims. This institution is a model for all other institutions. It has demonstrated cohesiveness because it is genuinely cohesive. But the circumstances of the country most of the time during the war forced this institution, the shield of the homeland, either to retreat inside its barracks, or—under certain circumstances we pray God we will not see again—to appear divided.

When the unified political decision was made, this institution responded to the call. It said: O Lebanon, our institution is the shield of the homeland and its defender. [applause] The unity of the Army was then restored. This unity is a model for all Lebanese. The Army institution—officers, soldiers, and commanders, especially General Lahhud—is a school for patriotism, a school for cohesion among the Lebanese, and a school telling every citizen to demonstrate unity and not to advocate division and fragmentation. Without unity, Lebanon cannot survive.

This institution reorganized itself and for the most part fulfilled its manpower requirements. Regrettably however, its equipment has yet to be completely replenished. We are now working diligently—not by issuing cabinet decisions, which you fully implement—to rebuild our Army, not only in terms of quantity but also equipment. I believe that the rehabilitation of the Army has been completed. We are at the beginning of a school year, and apart from this year's administrative, medical, and engineering officer graduates, we will graduate new officers, as we desperately need them in the future. For many years, we had lost this exemplary war academy.

What do I say about the Army establishment? I say that it has performed and helped the political decision, first by restoring cohesiveness, and second, by implementing the cabinet decision on redeployment over all Lebanese territory and on dissolving the militias. Thank God they were dissolved through diplomatic means and that our Army was forced only to suppress a few violations. Our greatest victory was the decision—which we lacked previously because we lacked the united political will—to send you to the south.

We went to the south. But, as I said at my start of my speech, there is bitterness and sadness. How I wish our deployment in the south extended to our international borders. I hope, now that we have entered the peace conference with the cooperation of Arab brothers, that we will succeed in attaining our objective of implementing Resolution 425. I and each one of you—whether a soldier or a politician—are eager not to see a single inch of Lebanese territory deprived of the Lebanese Army and security because I fear that if a part of the Lebanese body remains sick, the disease will spread to the rest of the body. God forbid. We are all completely ready to liberate our south with every drop of our blood should it be God's will that the political negotiations do not succeed. This is what I expect from your valiant Army. [applause]

If the state is said to be strong, then yes it is strong in its decisions. But the Lebanese Army is its first shield. The security forces and other auxiliary forces are its domestic shield. This prompts us to say proudly that the Lebanese Army is the Lebanese state's arm. It implements accurately and honestly the decisions of the political authority.

Let me give one example. This Army was used in the past for political purposes. There were trade-offs and I regret to say that some of them were tribal ones. But in the era since the united political decisions, the Army acts in Lebanon's interest, the Army is for the Lebanese people, and the Army is for every citizen, regardless of whether he is in the opposition or the loyal ranks. But we and the Army are against any person who infringes on Lebanese dignity, national unity, and Lebanon's independence. [applause]

I spoke about tribalism because I remember a painful past in this establishment. Thanks to God and due to your devotion and dignity, I see—in the difficulty we have for reasons [words indistinct] November—that our Army is deployed today at the highest point of 'Akkar not to exhaust the people or to harass anyone outside the law but because the Army was attacked. Let it be known from now on that the united political authority and the united decision tell the Army and the officers: You belong to Lebanon and not to a single group. Whoever attacks the Army is attacking Lebanon. Destroy him. [applause]

We lacked the political decision. Now, however, the decision is there, praise be to God. This decision is not meant to serve the president, the prime minister, the Chamber speaker, or any minister or deputy. It is meant to serve the law. No one is above the law, which is

applied to everyone, from the top of the state's hierarchy to the last person. The law, I believe, is our straightforward road toward a free, independent state, a country of justice and law.

Some believe that the Army is a brandished sword against others. We do not want them to say the Army is a brandished sword. We do not want to punish anyone, but we also do not want anyone to perpetrate aggression against the law, order, and institutions, as though we were still living in the past, with everyone having his own ministate. Now there is only one state. Lebanon is united, and the law is above all. Any decisions made by the Council of Ministers, therefore, proceed from a spirit of nationalism, not from a desire to punish anyone. It is enough hearing people here and there—sometimes on television, other times on one of the many radios, and yet other times in newspapers—saying that this or that person was attacked. We do not want to attack anyone; the law is above all. We do not want our Army to be a brandished sword; we want it to be the means for enforcing the law on everyone.

I may have spoken too much. I did not want my speech in the celebration of the 48th independence anniversary last year to be broadcast, because I intended to address a message to the nation. A message on the occasion of the independence is something, and a sermon, if I allow myself to preach others, is something else. I am here prompted by what I heard this year; namely, that the Army is biased and that it attacks this and leaves that. I would like to emphasize to the noble people—and I am one of them—that we do not have double standards. The law will be applied to everyone, wherever they are. I hope that in the near future, the Army will deploy throughout all Lebanese territory, especially in our dear south and in al-Biqa'. I hope security will be maintained, and that the law, not us, remains the brandished sword.

While on Independence Day we congratulate the institution that is the shield of the homeland, I must—in light of the difference I have seen between last year and this year—grant Army Commander General Lahhud, who represents this institution, the National al-Arz Medal of the Higher Sash Order. Please step forward. [applause; pause for a few seconds during which al-Hirawi decorates Lahhud]

Your Esteemed General: It should be known that the medal on your chest is a medal on the chest of all members of the institutions—officers and soldiers. Congratulations.

Al-Hirawi Message to Nation

NC2111201292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Message to the nation by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the 49th anniversary of Lebanon's independence—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] O Lebanese: The establishment of today's peace is a renewal of yesterday's independence. If the eras of independence were marked by development, prosperity, and wars, you are emphasizing through your new march that this homeland is a fact stronger than death. [passage omitted]

O military: On this national day, I congratulate you and congratulate the people on you. Through your courage, sacrifices, and exemplary performance, you have proven that your institution is for the whole country. With all honor, you defend the homeland by beating off the aggression, you maintain people's rights to freedom and security, and you implement the decisions of the state. Your role in maintaining security during the general elections was an example of integrity and objectivity.

When your institution has been completely organized, you will face major tasks. In addition to your responsibility for preserving the achievements of the peace march by expanding your deployment, you, together with all of us, will move, in cooperation with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, to the south and western al-Biqa' to establish security and legitimacy and remove oppression and humiliation from our people there. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese: Our concern about internal development does not mean we will abandon the completion of the al-Ta'if Accord, the consolidation of Lebanon's unity, and the liberation of the country. The liberation of the south and western al-Biqa' is the responsibility of all Lebanese; that is, it is the responsibility of the state. It is also an Arab and international responsibility. The mission of liberation does not allow anyone to practice oneupmanship over others. This is a sacred national duty. If you fail to work together to attain any right, all of you will be condemned. The liberation mission also allows nothing but good relations with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. This force, which we thank for all its sacrifices and support, is a positive factor supporting us to restore our rights as stipulated by Resolution 425, which your government is seeking to implement.

The duty of liberation dictates that we demonstrate cohesive domestic ranks and rally around the state so that it can muster international realities behind our right—the establishment of legitimate authority throughout Lebanese territory.

Lebanon has repeatedly defined the courses of its action to achieve this objective and it will not deviate from them. A principal element of this action is the commitment to what the brothers led by Syria agree on. Another element is the commitment to facilitate any international endeavor to establish just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

O Lebanese, there is now more need for the policy of openness—which represents one of the features of our vibrant existence at times of stability and prosperity—in a fast-changing world and in an era of many challenges. Our conditions make us need the support of brothers and

friends. It is our responsibility to establish the traditions of this openness which will ensure the development of cooperation and guarantee Lebanon's interests, independence, and mission.

The development of Lebanon's traditional and deep-rooted ties with the brothers and friends is a permanent duty in view of Lebanon's status in the region and the world. But it is much worthier for us to develop the methodology of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination with fraternal Syria, which has gratefully provided all possible contributions to propel our course, the course of conciliation, peace, and liberation.

Our right to sovereignty, freedom, and independence prompts us to organize every clear relationship whose outlines have been defined by the collective Lebanese will in the national reconciliation document. We are on the point of implementing all clauses of this document in letter and spirit.

O Lebanese, we are working to build a state for the sake of life. Having succeeded in the battle of peace, we are preparing ourselves to win the battle of good health. The people want to create independence with their own hands, to confront the postwar challenges, and to create a more democratic, just, and prosperous homeland. It is not permissible for us to act again as if nothing has happened in the country. We want to face the existing problems and work together to tackle and resolve them. Singing the praise of idealism is no substitute for achieving the possible. We are confident of the vitality of the citizen, the family, and society in the search for what is better. Wars have not destroyed our people's youthfulness and peace has come to unleash it. It is the stage of devotion to production and construction. How nice it is for Lebanon to start again and for the Lebanese to start again together for the sake of Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

Independence Day Parade

NC2211093592

[Editorial Report] Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0633 GMT on 22 November begins a live relay from 'Abdallah al-Yafi Boulevard, in the Museum area of Beirut, of a military parade to mark Lebanon's independence day. The announcer says that President Ilyas al-Hirawi; Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri; Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, representing Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; ministers; deputies; diplomats; military officers; and other figures are attending the parade.

At 0700 GMT, the announcer says that President Ilyas al-Hirawi's motorcade has arrived at the parade site. After the national anthem is played and a 21-gun salute is fired in honor of the president, al-Hirawi, the defense minister, and the Army commander proceed to the monument of the unknown soldier to lay a wreath. At 0708 GMT, the president takes his place and the parade begins.

Before the parading troops arrive at the main parade stand, the announcer praises the army and its achievements and quotes from the independence day messages of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and the army commander's order of the day.

At 0721 GMT, the announcer says the parade, led by a military band, has arrived at the main parade stand. The military band was followed by symbolic infantry, naval, air force, military police, paratroop, and republican guard units.

At 0800 GMT, the announcer says mechanized units have begun passing by the main parade stand. He names the military hardware and vehicles, giving brief description and specifications. These include signal units, U.S.-made antiarmor TOW rockets mounted on military jeeps and M-113 armored personnel carriers, French-made VAP [expansion unknown] amphibious armored troop carriers, U.S.-made M-113 armored personnel carriers, Panhard EML-90 armored vehicles, U.S.-made M-42 tanks, Soviet-made T-54 and T-55 MBT's [Main Battle Tanks], U.S.-made towed 155-mm Howitzers, U.S.- and French-made 155-mm field guns, Soviet-made 122-mm Howitzers, and 130-mm field guns.

At 0823 GMT, the announcer says the armored units parade has ended, bringing the military parade to a close. The president leaves the parade grounds for the presidential palace, where he will receive the congratulations of officials and diplomats. The relay ends at 0828 GMT.

Al-Hariri Marks Independence Day

NC2211183492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1634 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri marking the 49th anniversary of Lebanon's independence; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] O brother citizens: The independence anniversary this year comes amid optimism as much as difficulties. Since this is the logic of building homelands, we can say that our national structure is solid. This day is for all Lebanese, a day in which unity overcomes divisions, freedom surmounts oppression, hope overcomes despair, initiative replaces idleness, success overcomes failure, and peace replaces war.

The most important thing to recall today is that Independence Day has not been forgotten or abolished by wars. The Lebanese continued to cherish this anniversary in their hearts and minds. Independence remained alive in our hearts despite the ordeals that buffeted our homeland and destroyed many landmarks. Our independence overcame many bitter experiments. There are two milestones marking this anniversary: The end of a half century of (?troubles), which caps the Lebanese people's struggle in confronting difficult crises, and the start of a new century. The Lebanese will devote their efforts to

rebuilding their national life so they can deal effectively with the current age and its challenges.

Brother citizens: At a time when certain regions of the world are witnessing conflict and entities that only recently looked strong have disintegrated, Lebanon forges ahead in a new structure loyal to the values and ideals that are the basis of sound relationships among peoples. We cherish these values of freedom and democracy, particularly equal rights and duties. Our basic duty is not only to regain these principles, but to translate them into deeds with enlightenment and realism. Experience has shown that a strong homeland is one that gives and takes in a state of uprightness, justice, and law; a state in which the establishment [words indistinct] the aspirations of all people.

A half century after our independence, we must shoulder fully our responsibility in liberating this independence from numerous burdens and developing it from a mere ceremony celebrated every year into a pioneering national state that generations of Lebanese will nurture and use as a springboard for progress. The distance between the independence of a state and the state of independence always has been fraught with dangers. During previous political stages, certain Lebanese believed that their independence never was secure and that their state was vulnerable to variable winds. Independence was born with the birth of the region's crises. In light of this, our independence confronted successive chains of political, military, and sectarian events that began in the 1950's and cropped up during every Lebanese administration. We passed through major intrigues, but hope remained strong in our hearts. We are stronger than plots and despair. Every time we faced a wall, we succeeded in opening new roads. We consistently have been capable of confronting ordeals.

Brother citizens: Our spirit of independence is strong because our sense of the homeland is strong. Behold independence returning to us, coming to us again by way of civil peace, unity, reform, the capable Army, the just state, and the indispensable accord without which we cannot hope to attain our national objectives. It is as if independence was in exile and has now returned. Its return demands that we cooperate to defend it and disengage it from the crises which have plagued it throughout its march. Defending independence is a continuous process that never stops. The current stage demands that we focus on the following constants:

1. A prelude to defending our independence requires emphasizing the priority of liberating the south and western al-Biqa' from Israeli occupation. The homeland cannot feel independence in its heart while part of it suffers Israeli occupation. This occupation uses a border strip that has no other use except as a base to violate Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. Every independence anniversary will be incomplete until the Israeli forces are evacuated from occupied Lebanese territories. Any joy felt on such an anniversary will lack fulfillment unless the south is the source of that joy. Anniversaries will not assume their full national significance while the occupier continues to attack our territories, assault our people, and violate our airspace to tell us daily that we are a state whose security, peace, and dignity are threatened. Independence and sovereignty are one integral whole. Liberation is the prelude to full and secure independence, and the establishment of state authority over all our territories is our path to complete, undivided sovereignty.

2. Organizing Lebanese-Syrian relations on the principles of the national accord document and the brotherhood and cooperation treaty must go hand in hand with independence, not contradict it. The special relations with fraternal Syria guarantee Lebanon's unity and bolster its sovereignty and independence. At one stage of their shared history, Lebanon and Syria were comrades in the same endeavor to attain independence. They struggled together to evacuate the foreign forces in the 1940's. It is indispensable for them to adhere to their commitment to their joint causes and continue their solidarity to confront the current major changes and the requirements of liberation, reconstruction, and progress. Supreme Lebanese interests cannot be attained if some among us continue to wager on developments that might make it possible to circumvent Syria and use Lebanon as a springboard to weaken it. Lebanon's interest lies in continued normal relations with its Arab brothers. It looks to them today, eagerly waiting for them to resume their pan-Arab and historical role in backing Lebanon's steps toward liberation and peace and in assisting its reconstruction and economic development. This role would stem from a fraternity in which we have complete trust.

3. The establishment of a full-fledged state in the political, administrative, and economic spheres is the tool of sovereignty and independence. It will be impossible without it to return to the state of independence and sovereignty which the Lebanese are wagering on retrieving or to restore respect for its constituent parts.

We are in a country that has ceased to develop for many years. Stagnation characterizes everything and there is neglect in many parts of the administration, services, and other aspects of life. We are, very simply, in a state lacking planning and guidance and with inconsistent performance. It is not only the citizen who is lacking services, but the state also is short of the basic needs and revenues. We are imposing on ourselves a great responsibility in this respect. It is the responsibility of placing the state on the course of development.

Independence can escape destruction only by building the state. The unusual vacuum in the state establishments requires extraordinary efforts, which we will undertake in the very near future, God willing, together with all those who believe in the Lebanese people's right to a noble and modern state.

This is a pledge we are undertaking on this national day. We pledge not to stop work before the state is able to

stand on firm feet. We pledge that, by the time spring ends, an era heralding the building of a modern state and a development and construction process, which we are wagering on unleashing in the coming years, will have come to Lebanon.

We have a duty toward sovereignty and independence. It is the duty of half a year of persistent work to protect the course of half a century of our nationhood.

4. All clauses of the al-Ta'if accord will be implemented and national reconciliation, which is the spirit of independence, will be brought about. Sovereignty and independence cannot become embedded in the Lebanese people's hearts and minds without true reconciliation based on the national accord, which is moving forward. The return of the displaced will mark the completion of the national accord process.

5. The Lebanese Army has been and will remain the shield protecting national independence. This requires strengthening all the Armed Forces so they can execute the missions with which they are entrusted. Our Armed Forces are shouldering their responsibilities toward both the state and the citizens. In this sense, it is shouldering the responsibility of defending independence at all times: in the past, at present, and in the future.

Brother citizens. In the past, we worked to move from the independence of the state to the state of independence. Today we are facing both responsibilities: the responsibility of restoring independence and of protecting it from the Israeli threat, and the responsibility of moving to the rejuvenated state of independence and providing the requirements for its survival and development. We all are obligated to support the liberation of the south and western al-Biqa' so as to complete the restoration of independence and thus obtain full sovereignty. We all are obligated to build the state so independence can survive. We all are obligated to help bring about national reconciliation so as to protect independence. May you and Lebanon live long.

Prime Minister Delivers Policy Statement

JN1911172192 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, during which it listened to a policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The policy statement includes the government's plan of action, its domestic and foreign policy, as well as ways to implement its economic and social programs. Deputies to the prime minister and ministers attended the session.

At the outset, al-Zu'bi underscored changes around the world which have given new character to the international situation, and whose negative effects have interacted with weak points in our Arab situation, thus wasting the nation's energies and consistently fragmenting and weakening it.

He noted that Syria, in various stages, came under political, economic, and military pressure, and was subjected to media campaigns to weaken its effective role and independent will in a bid to force it to retreat and abandon its positions on pan-Arab issues.

Al-Zu'bi added: However, leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad, thanks to his wisdom, courage, and experience in struggle, has managed to face challenges and lead Syria to safe shores, overcoming dangerous junctures regionally and internationally, thus enhancing Syria's steadfast position and its independent national decisionmaking, amid various developments and events.

He added that under President al-Asad's leadership, Syria has managed to overcome obstacles and domestic and foreign hindrances and difficulties. Syria has also managed, through numerous correct policies, to give prominence to positive elements that distinguish the national economy's ability to absorb shocks and maintain steadfastness and cohesion in the face of pressures at all times.

The prime minister added that last year, Syria witnessed a national popular event when a referendum was conducted on the post of the president of the Republic. The Syrian masses rose to make the referendum day a national day, a day of absolute confidence in the leader, a day of national resolve to pursue the approach charted by the president over 21 years. There was an unparalleled popular unanimity on Syria's pan-Arab role, as well as its political, economic, social, and cultural line and its democratic system.

He added that in his oath-taking speech, leader President Hafiz al-Asad drew up a plan for the future, stemming from a sharp insight that comprehended the past, present, and future; a vision that foresaw developments; and a logic that fully comprehended both thought and action.

He added: In his speech, the president defined an integral plan of action, the basic highlights of which summed up the ambitious goals of the development march, the broad horizons of our democratic system, the methods chosen to practice responsibility, the most feasible ways for economic, administrative, and financial performance, as well as the distinguished features drawn from our life for political and economic pluralism.

Al-Zu'bi asserted that the unique leader's watershed speech constituted a plan for the next stage and a precise course of action for everybody. In his speech, the president clearly explained the meaning of Syria's awareness of its position in the region and the world.

He added that the government derives its programs from the political, economic, cultural, scientific, and civilized approach drawn up by the president, and the government is presenting its policy statement in light of this approach and guided by it.

The prime minister said that the government worked in the past in response to the requirements of responsibility through objective methods of tackling the prevailing situations of the productive sectors, bottlenecks, and various difficulties. He said that with a great deal of persistence, patience, follow up, control, and accountability, we were able to push the wheel of work and production several important steps forward.

Speaking about general policy, al-Zu'bi said that Syria has a geographic location, pan-Arab policy, and independent position which do not suit Zionist and other ambitions. He stressed that concentrating on a policy of self-reliance has always and continues to spring from the national commitment. This is because Syria has never been a follower of anyone, and it never will be. In fact, Syria must remain strong, alert, capable of achieving this objective, and ready for all possibilities.

The prime minister affirmed that Syria's policy has always been and is still concerned with Arab cooperation and solidarity, and with achieving developed political, economic, cultural, security, and defense formulas that would guarantee the establishment of an Arab order based on the Arab nation's higher interests, and about upgrading solidarity to a higher and a more effective level to confront Israel and its plans, and to tackle any Arab crisis.

Al-Zu'bi said: It is natural that Syria has always been in the forefront of joint action and unionist struggle. Syria has always been and continues to be the pivot of effective Arab solidarity, particularly during the October war, which restored to the Arabs their dignity, displayed their strength, and dispelled Israel's claims of force and supremacy. He emphasized that Syria will continue its efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and implement formulas to mobilize and unify Arab resources, bringing them face-to-face with all challenges.

The prime minister said: Based on this pan-Arab vision, Syria adopted principled stands toward the Iraq-Iran war and the Gulf crisis. The results of that war and crises proved the pan-Arab credibility of Syria's positions. He

added that Syria realized the international changes from their very beginning. President Hafiz al-Asad left no occasion without warning against the serious repercussions and effects that would result from these changes, particularly on Arab situations, which deteriorated further and worsened as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He added: Through this realization, Syria was able to draw its Arab and international policy with great accuracy and confidence; something which reinforced its strength, entrenched its national unity, and developed its regional and international role thanks to the wisdom and courage of its leader President Hafiz al-Asad. He affirmed that Syria will pursue its efforts to correct the Arab situation, unify Arab ranks, and remove the negative phenomena obstructing joint Arab action. It will also continue to support Lebanon and its march along the road of national accord, as well as continue safeguarding the unity of its land and people.

Al-Zu'bi noted that the Arab region has not enjoyed security and stability due to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that the Madrid conference provided an opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and relevant UN resolutions. He said: After the passage of one year since the Madrid conference, its has been proven that the Arabs have a serious desire for peace, while Israel is still procrastinating and trying to evade the implementation of UN resolution and the land-for-peace principle. He stressed that Syria will continue to promote its relations with Islamic states, the Nonaligned Movement, Russia, the CIS states, and the East European states based on mutual interests. He affirmed that Syria will continue to promote ties of friendship and cooperation with the PRC, the DPRK, Japan, the European states, and the peoples and states of North and South America. He noted that Syria has spared no effort to support the UN resolutions and agreements on disarmament in a manner that reinforces world security and stability. He expressed Syria's commitment to the UN Charter; something which supports its call for implementing UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He pointed out that the Syrian delegation to the 47th UN General Assembly session called for enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations and its role in the reformulation of more democratic and integrated international relations, and that Syria will pursue its active role in this respect.

With regard to domestic policy, al-Zu'bi indicated that the Syrian Arab people are marked by security and stability, noting that they are true patriots. He added that the social and humanitarian fields of activity in Syria are capable of exceptional development and production—something which requires the modernization of legislations and laws in a manner that is commensurate with economic and social development. He also pointed out that the government's objective in this regard is to focus on investment in production fields, to allow economic measures to take root, to conduct a more extensive exploitation of subterranean resources, and to achieve integration among various sectors through economic plurality.

The prime minister went on to say: The government continues its efforts to achieve equilibrium between revenues and expenditure, between imports and exports, and between production and consumption. Syria, given its national unity, political stability, and democratic system based on political and economic plurality, is providing its people with economic factors allowing them to participate in and contribute to the building of the homeland.

Al-Zu'bi said: Our consistent policy has always been to consecrate the pillars of the democratic system in accordance with the decisions made by the party and the [National Progressive] Front [NPF], to enhance the role of popular organizations and trade associations, to strengthen the role of local administrations, to involve the people's representatives in provinces in the decisionmaking process pertaining to decisions affecting their provinces, and to focus on lending further impetus to women's roles in political, economic, social, and cultural life.

Al-Zu'bi affirmed that the rule of law is the mainstay of life in any community, adding that the authority of law is authority of the people. He went on to say: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad spelled out this policy when he said that enforcing laws and according them due respect constitute an important factor in the society's stability.

The prime minister also asserted the government's continued efforts to support and develop the Armed Forces, and to modernize work mechanisms in the state. He noted the large fields of activity covered by the public sector, affirming its basic role in supporting the national economy—something which prompted the government to conduct repeated reviews of its regulations, laws, and work mechanisms; to tackle the difficulties it is facing; and to cope with some of the obstructions limiting the scope of its work.

The prime minister said: At the instructions of his excellency the president, the party leadership, and the NPF leadership, the government, along with the General Federation of Trade Unions and the parties concerned, continues to study the public sector's state of affairs. It will put into effect the results yielded by this study.

Al-Zu'bi spoke on the experience of the mixed sector, particularly in the areas of agriculture and tourism, indicating that the government will constantly work to enhance this sector's contribution to the overall endeavor. He noted the Investment Encouragement Law, which was meant to channel monetary investment into the fields of development and production. He affirmed that the government will endeavor to achieve integration among the agricultural and industrial sectors and ensure the availability of numerous commodities which used to be imported. In addition, the government, he noted, will contribute toward efforts to tackle the existing bottlenecks in commodity, passenger, and export and import transportation on land and at sea.

The prime minister also stressed that the government will work to extend necessary support and facilities to the cooperative sector. Similarly, the government will continue to promote supervision and accountability in a manner that renders accountability an economic accountability for the establishment. He added: The agricultural policy in Syria has taken an economical and practical course, which enhances our self-confidence as well as our trust in our national soil, peasants, production, and rural areas, and also in the course Syria has taken. This course requires immense efforts during the coming phase.

Al-Za'bi pointed out that the government's industrial plans will strive to exploit available resources; to increase the benefits they yield; to focus on the production of domestic raw materials; to continue efforts to explore for oil, gas, and other underground resources; and to focus on handling the state of affairs of the public sector and the industrial sector by studying the affairs of industrial institutions, securing their requirements, and removing difficulties and obstacles standing in their way.

The statement affirmed that the government will continue with its policy of making domestic trade a tool for modernizing production, enhancing and improving quality production, and securing the raw materials required for its continuation by modernizing external trade regulations in light of economic developments already under way in our country.

With regard to financial and monetary policy, the statement indicated that the government will continue its efforts to achieve financial stability as a major step designed to realize economic equilibrium. Plus, the government will endeavor to enhance the role of banks and develop their operations.

The session was adjourned until 1100 tomorrow, Thursday.

Vice President Khaddam Interviewed on Changes

JN1711210292 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Radio Monte Carlo yesterday held a wide-ranging political interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on various aspects of Syria's political, economic, social, and cultural life and the important changes and major achievements in Syria since the launching of the Corrective Movement under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

In the interview, Khaddam reviewed Syria's achievements in all political, economic, industrial, and agricultural spheres, as well as in the fields of foreign and domestic trade, tourism, services, and culture.

The vice president discussed political pluralism that has been endorsed in the country through the establishment of the National Progressive Front. He indicated that Syria has preceded most third world nations in realizing the importance of promoting the country's political and democratic structure. Khaddam held a comparison between the current political and social situation in Syria and the situation that prevailed before 1970, when political and social life was in chaos and when no government had been able to assume its responsibilities for more than months before it collapsed.

Khaddam indicated that Syria's most important achievement is stability. He said that the action that the Syrians will constantly recall as one of the contributions of his excellency the president is the atmosphere of stability that has prevailed in the country under his leadership. He said: Under this stability, we managed to realize all these achievements and will realize more.

The vice president indicated: We have not fulfilled all our obligations yet. There are still major obligations and basic achievements that we aspire to realize. He said: There is still a long way to go requiring a great deal of effort, sweat, hardship, and sacrifices. Foremost among such achievements is the liberation of the territory, the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, the realization of Arab unity, and the removal of the existing gap between us as a third world country and the advanced world.

Responding to a question on what Syria expects from the new U.S. Administration, Khaddam said: I do not want to comment on the new U.S. Administration before it assumes its responsibilities. This is because we, based on experience, should wait. There is a difference between a candidate's electoral political positions and his political positions when he takes office. He added: We want and seek to have normal relations that are based on justice and fairness. We hope that the new administration will avoid double standards in its relations with the region.

The vice president clearly noted the U.S. bias in Israel's favor and said that the volume of U.S. backing and support for Israel can never provide peace and security in the region. He said: We do not want to foretell future events. We must await the new administration and its program. The situation can be evaluated in light of all this.

Answering a question on joint Arab coordination in the peace talks, Khaddam said: It was Syria which presented the idea of coordination among the Arabs dealing with the peace process. Many foreign ministers' meetings were held. What happened so far is satisfactory.

Answering a question, the vice president said: We are committed to working for a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Resolutions 242 and 338. The contents of these two resolutions define the nature of peace, ties, and other issues. Khaddam added: The talks are part of a comprehensive process to establish peace, bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, and realize the Palestinian people's national rights. If this approach fails, then we must work to provide all the circumstances that enable us to regain

our rights to territory, be it Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, or Jordanian territory. We will work on the Syrian, Arab, and international levels to create circumstances conducive to regaining our rights. This struggle cannot be stopped even if it continues for one, two, three, or four centuries as long as a single inch of land is occupied and as long as the Palestinian people are suffering oppression and occupation.

Answering a question on the multilateral negotiations, Khaddam said: We see no logic in the multilateral negotiations. How can we discuss relations among the region's states when aggression is continuing and the occupation still exists? How can Syria discuss the region's problems, like water, the environment, and other things when its territory is occupied?

Khaddam added: The multilaterals are a gift to Israel, a weakening factor in the Arab stand on the peace process, and a reward for Israel. It is natural that we take this position. We do not want to jump to conclusions. Unless the withdrawal takes place, nothing else can be discussed. The withdrawal must be from every inch of the Golan, from every inch of the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Iran's Industry Minister Meets Prime Minister

JN2211141192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1100 today Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, Iran's minister of industries. The meeting was attended by Industry Minister Ahmad Nizam-al-Din and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around bilateral ties and the existing good cooperation in all fields, particularly in the economic and industrial fields, as well as the resources available to bolster the steps of cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the industrial sector to serve the two friendly countries's mutual interest.

Talks With Industry Minister

JN2211184092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Damascus, 22 Nov (SANA)—Talks were held here today between the Syrian Arab side headed by Industry Minister Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din and the Iranian side headed by Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh.

The two sides discussed possible trade and industrial cooperation in the textile, chemical, and food processing areas. They also discussed cooperation in the specifications and calibration areas, as well as the possibility of establishing projects for joint investment in both countries.

The two sides agreed to hold contacts and exchange information on the possibility of extensive cooperation and exchanging experts to agree on issues of mutual interest.

Romanian Envoy Confers With Foreign Minister

JN2111203692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' received Romanian Assistant Foreign Minister Gheorghe Tinca this evening. Al-Shar' received from him a letter for His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from Romanian President Ion Iliescu in which the latter conveyed his greetings and best wishes to his excellency the president, reiterating Romania's eagerness to promote its relations with Syria in all fields.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the international state of affairs, developments within the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Acting Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush, Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the East European Desk [at the Foreign Ministry], and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Meets With Khaddam

JN2211161292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Gheorghe Tinca, Romanian deputy minister for foreign affairs at 1000 this morning in the presence of Ion Mielciniu, the Romanian ambassador to Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the international situation in general and the situation in the Middle East in particular. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

Al-Asad Congratulates al-Hirawi on Independence Day

JN2211201892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi last night, during which he congratulated al-Hirawi on Lebanon's independence day.

Afghanistan

Action Against Russian 'Interference' Sought

LD2211204592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Jihadi commanders have asked the office of the leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan] to take action against the blatant interference in the internal affairs of our country by Russia. Here is a special report from the office of the party leader:

Jihadi commanders have urged the office of the leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan to ensure that, if Russia does not stop sending banknotes which do not have gold backing to the coalition administration, but continues this practice, Russian prisoners of war and diplomats will face a dangerous fate. If Russia does not stop its interference in the internal affairs of our country but illegally continues sending unsupported banknotes, the price of essential basic goods will go up, the value of the afghani will fall against foreign currency, these banknotes will be used by the coalition administration to bribe individuals, and the oppressed people of our country will face hunger and famine. Under such circumstances, we are obliged to seek revenge upon the Russians and restrict the field of subversive activities of Russian diplomats in the country.

The office of the Islamic Party leader says that this issue is under consideration at a high party level, and a final decision will be made very soon.

Hekmatyar Opens Roads to Kabul for Relief Aid

LD2211115292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Gulboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami Party, which claims to control all roads leading to Kabul, has announced that it has opened three roads to the Afghan capital for the passage of food and fuel. The party stresses that all relief organizations must personally distribute their supplies among the people. If the Afghan people fail to receive the necessary aid for winter, they will face serious problems.

According to our correspondent in Kabul, the citizens of that city are living in difficult conditions. There has been no electricity in Kabul since yesterday morning, heavy snow has shrouded the city, and massive fuel shortages have made life extremely difficult for people.

Hezb-e Command Statement on Aid

LD2211155892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to the statement of the High Military Command of Hezb-e Eslami.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The High Military Command of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan announces that in order to alleviate the needs of the residents of Kabul caused by the shortage of food and fuel, and in order that food aid is not pocketed by officials of the coalition administration and that they are not utilized for combat goals, and in order that the aid is justly distributed among the needy, all supply routes to Kabul are opened in the following manner: Traders and private enterpreneurs can bring the abovementioned material from abroad or the surroundings of Kabul for sale to special markets which are set up at a distance of six kms from Kabul in Bagrami, Benihesar, and Maydanshar where they can be bought on a retail basis and taken to Kabul. Aid agencies can hand out aid material to needy residents of Kabul City under the supervision of their authorized representatives and delegations.

The Mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami are obliged to ensure security along the Kabul-Khowst, Kabul-Torkham, and Zazi-Kabul highways and must not allow anyone either to create trouble for the convoys or to exact a tariff or highway toll from them. Officials of the convoys and drivers must refuse to pay tariffs. They should immediately register their complaints about tariffs and tolls exacted by the security posts with offices and branches of the security services of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan in order that the culprits can be punished and the repetition of such acts prevented. This decision is made in view of the refusal by the coalition government to implement a decision of the Leadership Council which wanted to set up a competitive all party commission for the distribution of aid material to entitled people. It wanted the material be pocketed, as in the past, by a number of people and used for military purposes.

That was the Pashto text of the statement of the High Military Command of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan.

Rabbani Confirms Candidacy for Presidency

LD2011165692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Burhanoddin Rabbani has declared his candidacy for the presidential office in Afghanistan. Speaking to Iranian correspondents in Kabul, he added: Leaders of jihadi groups, commanders, mojahedin, and the people of Afghanistan have the right to declare themselves as candidates for the presidency.

He also pointed out that despite all attempts to create obstructions, the preliminaries for the convening of the

Reconciliation and Settlement Council [shura-ye hal o 'aqd] on 19 Azar [10 December] have been arranged. Any attempt by anyone who wishes to prevent the convening of the council in any way will definitely be frustrated. The council will be choosing the future Afghan president.

Dostam Forces Reportedly Appoint New Ops Head

LD2011164192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Amanoddin, a notorious and a criminal communist, has been appointed as head of operation forces for Dostam.

According to a report by one of our correspondents, quoting a reliable source, Lt. Gen. Amanoddin, a notorious communist has been appointed as head of operations for Dostam's forces. It has been reported that all members of the Khalq faction are being invited to join the National Movement, of which Dostam is chairman. It must be pointed out that the coalition administration is not allowed to express views on or interfere in such issues.

According to another report, General Nabi 'Azimi arrived in Kabul to take up his previous post as commander of Kabul garrison. General Nabi 'Azimi and several other notorious communists are all in charge of the Ministry of Defense.

India

Paper Notes Progress in Border Talks With PRC

BK1511132092 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 92 p 13

[Editorial: "Another Step Forward"]

[Text] There are signs that India and China have made quiet progress at the meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) in Beijing. The very nature of the complexities involved in the border dispute between the two countries preclude the possibility of any spectacular resolution of the issue. But it is important for the two governments to continue to meet at regular intervals, and patiently work to create an atmosphere where a solution becomes possible. The present round of talks—fifth in the series—was expected to yield a mechanism that would make it possible for the two parties to formulate some more confidence-building measures. Ever since 1988 when the JWG was set up, New Delhi and Beijing have been patiently pursuing a solution of the border question and maintenance of peace and tranquility along the frontier till the objective is fulfilled. So far that process has not suffered any setback. The sustained dialogue and visits by senior leaders of the two countries have in fact created conditions which encourage the belief that India and China are moving closer towards a resolution of the border question. It is quite significant that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Foreign Secretary J. N. Dixit, leading the Indian team, have agreed that both countries need peace to concentrate on their primary task, rapid economic development.

It will take some time before the fruits of Sino-Indian peace pursuits are known. One of the questions both have addressed is the reduction of troops along the border both on the eastern and western sectors. This will be a major confidence-building measure, and will greatly eliminate the risks of unintended conflicts. Another effort has been for institutionalising regular meetings at senior army officers level. It should be emphasised that although there is the impression that the two parties are moving forward, the time perhaps has come when Beijing and New Delhi should come up with some concrete proposals which would put a stamp of success on their efforts. Perhaps the occasion for that should be an important visit that carries political significance. It has been widely anticipated that either President Yang Shangkun or National People's Congress President Wan Li might visit India in the coming months. Mr Dixit has renewed invitation to both of them and to Chinese Communist Party general secretary Jiang Zemin and Mr Qian Qichen. One of these visits should materialise in not too distant a future. This, and the announcement of a package of confidence-building measures, will considerably boost the prospects of further improvement in bilateral ties.

Islamabad Reports 'Complete Strike' in Kashmir

BK2211152092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, furious anti-Indian demonstrations continued for the 2d day today to protest against the brutal killing of mujahidin leader, Sheikh Hamid. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], a complete strike was observed throughout the occupied valley today, with protest rallies by students and women. In Srinagar, Indian forces used brute force to disperse the demonstrators. Several women were injured. This follows fierce clashes between mujahidin and Indian troops in the curfew-bound Srinagar, in which 16 Indian soldiers were killed. Twelve people, including mujahidin, were martyred while 50 innocent people were arrested. In Budgam, a bridge was blasted in Daulatpura area that killed 11 Indian troops. Some military vehicles were also damaged. Clashes have also been reported from Baramula, Sopor, and Kupwara areas. Meanwhile, the situation in Jammu region is reported to be tense, as the Indian troops have stepped up their operation against Muslims.

Amnesty International Team Meets Home Minister

BK2011162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Amnesty International team, now in New Delhi, met the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today.

The four-member team is led by Dr. Ian Martin. Mr. Chavan reiterated the government's commitment to human rights. He also told the team that while the government is prepared to take action against anyone violating human rights, nothing should be done to dampen the morale of the security forces. The home minister pointed out that security forces were carrying out their duties under very difficult circumstances. He also explained to the visiting team how innocent persons have been murdered by terrorists. An official spokesman briefing reporters said the amnesty team appreciated the government's position as also the steps to bring to book those who have committed excesses.

Discusses Pakistan-Aided Militancy

BK1611160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] A four-member Amnesty International delegation led by its former director general Dr. Ian Martin, met the home secretary, Dr. Godbole, in New Delhi today. The home secretary underlined the firm commitment of the Government to the furtherance of human rights as well as the setting up the human rights commission. The problem arising out of militant activities, particularly in the states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and the large-scale violence perpetrated by them with Pakistan's active support also came up during the discussions.

The delegation is in India at the invitation of the Government of India to discuss with the Home Ministry and other departments [matters] relating to human rights. The team will also meet the home minister.

Pakistan Criticized Over Religious ID Cards

BK1811125492 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Dev Prakash commentary]

[Text] In Pakistan, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Parsis, Ahmedias, Buddhists, and Sikhs et cetera will now have to declare their religion so that their identity cards can be made accordingly. The decision to introduce separate identity cards was taken by the Pakistan Government under pressure from Jamaat-i-Islami and Anjuman-i-Sipah-i Sahaba and other fundamentalist parties. These fundamentalist parties have alleged that the Christians, the Hindus, the Sikhs, and the Ahmedias did not make any contribution to the creation of Pakistan and for its well being and should not, therefore, dictate policies to the government. Thus, the one document ID that gave to these minorities equality under the constitution has now been undermined, compelling them to feel that doors are being closed on them by the Muslim-dominated society of Pakistan.

The Islamabad government's decision to introduce separate ID cards for the non-Muslim minorities has given rise to a wave of indignation among the members of the minorities and human rights groups in Pakistan. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has condemned the decision as amounting to the introduction in Pakistan of the apartheid system of South Africa, while THE FRONTIER POST of Peshwar in an editorial dated 15 October 1992 has compared the decision of the government to the order issued by Hitler after he seized power in Germany requiring all Jews living in Germany to wear the Star of David in order to identify themselves as Jews.

Addressing a press conference at Lahore, Miss Asma Jahangir, secretary general of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, described the decision of Islamabad government as yet another retrogressive step that the present rulers have taken under well-orchestrated pressure from the orthodoxy. She asserted that this decision was aimed at further dividing the Pakistani society which was already riven by deep ethnic sectarian and communal strife. She added that the move was clearly malafide and its main objective was to subject the minorities, particularly the Ahmedias, to still more victimization and said, but I may warn the enlightened segment of the Pakistani society that this move will destroy everything that is left in Pakistan in the name of tolerance. She also pointed out that the move is in total violation of the universal declaration of human rights and added that the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan would harness all its potential to mobilize public opinion in Pakistan against this evil move.

The Protestant Church of Pakistan and various Christian organizations have also strongly condemned the move and appealed to the UN Human Rights Commission to intervene in the matter. In a statement, the Protestant Church of Pakistan has described the move as meant to further victimize the minorities politically as well as socially. Joseph Francis, secretary general of the Pakistani Christian National Party, has sent a telegram to the UN secretary general, describing the present government in Islamabad as a government of fundamentalists and pointing out that it has been violating the UN Human Rights Convention by discriminating against its Christian and other non-Muslim minorities.

Writing under the title of Fight to the Finish, the DAWN of Karachi said on 24 October 1992, the Hindus in the rural areas are routinely targets of state and individual violence. Hindu girls are regularly raped by waderas [criminal elements] and policemen. Ahmedias suffer from intolerance in a variety of ways—some subtle and some blatant. Ahmedi civil servants are not given assignments considered sensitive as their loyalty is suspected. One Ahmedi was dead because he had printed the kalma [Koranic verse] on his daughter's wedding card. Ahmedias have been sentenced to prison terms for using the universal Muslim greeting, rather ironic when you consider how pleased we are to be similarly greeted by foreign non-Muslim visitors. The catalogue of crimes committed by the Muslim majority against virtually very minority groups in Pakistan makes a mockery of our claim to civilization.

Thermal Power Project To Be Built in Iran

BK1111161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] India is to set up an $40 mw capacity thermal power project in Iran. A formal contract for executing the $700 million project is to be signed by the middle of next month. This was decided at the sixth meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission which ended in New Delhi today.

Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the contract for the project was bagged by India against stiff international competition. He said a memorandum of understanding envisaging cooperation in various fields was signed by the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. The spokesman said a team of experts will visit Iran to discuss the transit facilities for trade with the Central Asian republics. A land route through Iran is under consideration. He said Iran's minister for heavy industry will visit India in the middle of next month for discussions on expanding bilateral trade.

Japan's Prince Akishino Meets President

OW1411070492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2331 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 14 KYODO—Japanese Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko met with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma at the presidential residence in New Delhi on Friday.

During a 40-minute chat, Sharma expressed his hope for closer relations between India and Japan in connection with the current economic reform policy under the administration of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Japanese officials said.

He and the prince, the younger son of Emperor Akihito, also exchanged views on environmental preservation including wild animals, they added.

Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko are visiting India to mark the 40th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic ties on the third leg of their four-nation Asian tour.

Indian Military Chief Supports UN Restructure

BK1011092192 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 3 Nov 92 p 11

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Monday, MERDEKA—The Indian Government supports Indonesia's proposal for the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] membership to be restructured as part of efforts to create a better, more democratic, and fairer situation in the world.

The support was expressed by General Sunith Francis Rodrigues, chief of the Indian Armed Forces Staff, during a courtesy call on President Suharto at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta on Monday.

Gen. Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, who accompanied the head of state during the courtesy call, told newsmen that war victors were chosen as UNSC permanent members. However, the present reality is that the defeated states have developed into important economic powers.

"Accordingly, the defeated states such as Japan and Germany must also be included in the UNSC," he said. "However, the make up of the UNSC permanent members should not be just five plus two, as this will not be comprehensive."

According to the Armed Forces commander, they must be joined by African, Latin American, and Asian representatives. The membership criteria for countries with a population of over 175 million should be set to enable India and Indonesia to become UNSC permanent members.

As there are no African or Latin American countries with this population, the most populous countries in each continent should be allowed to represent their respective continents. Thus, there will be 11 permanent members—five plus six.

"With this number, the UNSC will be more cohesive and a healthy mechanism will be created," Try said. [passage omitted]

Asian Chambers Agree on Idea of Common Market

BK2011125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Chambers of commerce and industry of the Asia-Pacific region have agreed in principle on the idea of an Asian common market. The president of the Confederation of the Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. R.P. Goenka, said in the capital today that the matter was discussed at the New Delhi meeting of the confederation and the response was good. He said consultations with the governments of the region will begin soon.

BJP Shifts Stance, Pledges To Oust Government

BK1411101392 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpts] In a virtual turnaround on Friday, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has said it is ready for a mid-term poll rather than allowing Narasimha Rao Government to last a full term.

Briefing newsmen on the first day of the three-day-long national executive meeting of the party here, senior vice president Sundar Singh Bhandari said although his party had earlier decided to extend support to the Congress Government at the Centre to last a full term, it has changed the stand in view of the fact that the Government is not in a position to solve the national problems.

Mr Bhandari said if "this Government" continued, it will only lead to an economic disaster. He said the endeavour of his party will be to expose the "various scandals" the Government is into and demand action against the corrupt ministers.

Party President Murli Manohar Joshi, had in fact set the tempo of the discussion at the meeting in his opening remarks by coming down heavily on the Union Government. Dr Joshi said, in less than two years people are disillusioned with the Narasimha Rao Government, which has failed both on political and economic fronts.

Stating that the Centre has failed to come out with any tangible solution on the Ayodhya issue, Mr Joshi lambasted the Government for not arresting the deteriorating situation in Kashmir. He was highly critical of corruption in the Government, rising prices and mounting foreign debt.

Party leaders during the first session of the meeting expressed serious concern over the infiltration from Bangladesh and appointed a nine-member ministry under the chairmanship of V P Singhal to look into the seriousness of the problem.

The committee will submit the details at the plenary of the party scheduled for the third week of January at Bangalore. [passage omitted]

Dr Joshi remarked that the influx of Bangladeshis was not only a grave threat to the economy of the country but also to the amity and peace in Indian society. He, however, regretted the Government's inability to persuade Bangladesh to talk about this "grave matter" let alone take back the migrants.

He said the demographic invasion has got to be stopped but there appeared to be no determined efforts on part of the Centre to do it.

Dr Joshi expressed his surprise over Union Home Minister S B Chavan not inviting any representatives of the Kashmiri migrants to the meeting scheduled for Saturday to take stock of the prevailing situation in the State.

"This only shows the bankruptcy of the Kashmir policy of the Government", he remarked and said any talk of resorting to the pre-1953 conditions in Jammu and Kashmir was against national interest. The BJP, he said, was strongly opposed to this.

The national executive also condemned the repressive measures unleashed by the Janata Dal government in Bihar and Left Front in West Bengal to foil the Bharat bandh [strike] call given by his party. Mr Bhandari said the bandh was successful despite efforts by Congress Janata Dal and the Left Front to foil it.

It expressed gratitude to the people for the overwhelming response to the bandh to protest rising prices. [passage omitted]

Financial Institutions To Reduce Lending Rates

BK1811160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] In a significant move, financial institutions in the country have decided to reduce their term lending rate by one percent from the current level. A press release of the Industrial Development Bank of India issued in New Delhi today says that the revised rates will be applicable to loans executed from tomorrow.

Delhi Reports on World Bank $9 Billion Aid

BK1111152892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] The World Bank president, Mr. Louis Preston, has assured India of full support to meet the country's financial need of about $9 billion for the next three years. Mr. Preston, who held an hourlong meeting with the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi this afternoon, appreciated the pace of structural reforms and fiscal adjustments undertaken by the government. He extended the World Bank's full support to the economic reforms program. Dr. Manmohan Singh gave a detailed account of the corrective steps taken by the government to bring the economy back in shape.

Commentary Views 1992 Economic Prospects

BK2011131992 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Economist Anjan Roy commentary]

[Text] The Indian economy appears to have crossed the hump now and could hopefully be expected to maintain an even keel. During the past few months, some of the major macroeconomic imbalances have been tackled. The severe external payments crisis of 1990, the large deficits and the rising prices which had nearly ripped the country's economic fabric at least appear to have been contained. While the external payments crisis has been more or less controlled for the time being, inflation still remains a challenge for the managers of the economy. As for controlling the fiscal deficits, the government is trying hard to keep these within the ceiling.

The government is hopeful that the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, should grow between 3.5 percent to four percent during the current year of 1992-93 against a dismal two percent last year. The economy is expected to bounce back to a high-growth path by 1994-95 when the annual rate of growth could be around seven percent.

The doubling of the GDP growth rate this year is based on the developments. Firstly, the disbursement of loans by the financial institutions has shot up during April to September this year by 30 percent when compared with these in the comparable period last year. Once these investments start coming on stream, the level of industrial production is expected to go up in steps. Besides India's preoccupation to keep the fiscal deficit to less

than five percent of the GDP during the current year, public sector investments have been pruned in many areas and this could have brought about some fall in demand. However, the government has argued that public sector investment will go down progressively. The objective of the process of economic liberalization is to create such an atmosphere that private investment could more than offset the fall in government investments.

Indeed, the government has set a target of maintaining investment level of 23 percent to 24 percent of the GDP during the next year. This itself will mean a quantum jump in the absolute volume of investments since the GDP base will be much larger. These macroeconomic calculations could remain meaningful only if the overall fiscal monetary stability is maintained. The bulging fiscal deficit and the runaway inflation had rendered all projections haywire.

After two consecutive years of double-digit inflation the pace of price of rise slowed down from last August. The price situation looks very comfortable now compared with the middle of last year when the prices were shooting at 17 percent. The wholesale price index rose by 5.1 percent during the current year up to 19 September against 9.7 percent during the corresponding period in the previous year on a point-to-point basis.

In fact, an analysis of the component of the rise in the index will reveal that the prices of manufactured items have risen more than the primary articles. The government has sought to explain this phenomenon by citing the rise in the prices of petroleum products. Indeed, the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] had also projected some pressure on the price line because of the hike in petroleum, fertilizer and procurement prices. The RBI has cautioned on the possibility of a price spurt and advocated cautious policies. Against this backdrop of rising prices, it is essential that the strictest discipline is maintained by the government. How the prices will behave, will, to a large extent, be influenced now by the extent of the fiscal deficit.

The senior officials of the Finance Ministry have stated that the level of deficit will be well within the five percent ceiling. With luck, it could as well be around 3.5 percent to four percent now. Along with the control on government spending, the monetary authorities too will have to maintain as much caution. In such a situation, the RBI could be expected to keep a tight leash on credit expansion.

Daily Notes Achievements in Nuclear Field

BK1511133792 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 92 p 11

[Text] Bombay, Oct. 30 (UNI)—Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr Padmanabha Krishnagopal Iyengar today said that India was committed to establishing nuclear technology on a firm footing by transferring scientific innovations and technological improvements to human activity, whether it was in agriculture or industry.

Speaking at the founder's day function of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre [BARC] here, Dr Iyengar said that while scientists might not like to attach much importance to the economic principles which influenced social progress, the fact has to be accepted that these changes ultimately decide the pattern of growth and has a bearing on the development of science and technology itself.

He called upon the scientists to study these economic principles and innovate modern methods to ensure economic growth which took into account the limitations of society. "It is my view that this is indeed necessary," he added.

Dr Iyengar was of the opinion that it was not proper to simply copy principles and experiences of far-away countries which operated under totally different conditions, mainly unlimited resources and less population.

He said last year had been very productive for the Atomic Energy Department with two nuclear power units—Narora two and Kakrapar one—going into operation. Kakrapar one, the latest of the 220 megawatt (energy) pressurised heavy water reactors, was completed in less than eight years time and the experience showed that this could be reduced even further. The completion of the reactor in a record time was also an indication of the good work done by the Nuclear Power Corporation, BARC and participating industries.

Considerable progress had also been made in basic research areas such as synchrotron light sources at the Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, the cyclotron facility at Calcutta and in a large number of facilities in BARC.

In new areas like cold fusion experiments had demonstrated the authenticity of the new effect which was now gaining acceptance worldwide. In biology and genetic engineering fields, he said it was necessary to innovate further to develop new techniques and their applications.

BARC director R. Chidambaram, paying glowing tributes to its founder Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha, said that in the present international climate of technology control regimes the success of BARC and other units of the Department of Atomic Energy in nuclear technology and related fields remained one of the pillars of national strength.

Referring to the Kakrapar achievement, Dr Chidambaram said the thorium loading in the power reactor would give valuable experience on various aspects of large scale handling of thorium in the nuclear

fuel cycle, which was going to play a major role in the Indian nuclear power programme in the future.

In the area of nuclear fuels, he said that BARC had developed solgel microsphere pelletisation process for the fabrication of nuclear fuel of oxide, minocarbide and mononitride, as an alternative to the conventional powerpellet route, eliminating radioactive dust hazards. It was also highly suitable for remote and automated fabrication. Besides, low temperature sintering could be carried out to bring down the cost of fuel fabrication, he added.

Dr Chidambaram said that several kilograms of high density uranium oxide pellets prepared by the novel pelletisation and sintering route at BARC had been examined at the nuclear fuel complex at Hyderabad and have been found suitable for use.

He said that BARC had initiated the fabrication of mixed uranium plutonium monocarbide fuel for the second core of the fast breeder test reactor at Kalpakkam. The out-of-pile thermophysical data of this fuel, namely hot hardness, thermal conductivity and coefficient of thermal expansion had been evaluated upto 1500 degree Celsius and found to have excellent chemical compatibility.

Dr Chidambaram said that the fuel reprocessing plants at Trombay and Tarapur had been operating well with the newly developed electrochemical techniques, which had brought in innovative changes in the basic process with considerable cost benefit and other advantages. An engineering scale facility was being built to process the irradiated thorium elements and to separate uranium-233 formed in them to be used as nuclear fuel in future reactors, he added.

Court Strikes Down Policy on Job Reservation

BK1611101492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] The supreme court today upheld by a majority judgment that reservation cannot exceed 50 percent, except in the most extraordinary circumstances for which reasons will have to be recorded. The apex court also struck down the 10 percent reservation solely on the basis of poverty, as included in the office memorandum of September 25th last year.

The nine-judge constitutional bench, headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice M.H. Kania, also struck down by a majority verdict reservation in promotion. The majority judgment was delivered by Mr. Justice B.P. Jivanreddy, on behalf of the chief justice, Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah and Mr. Justice A.M. Ahmadi. Mr. Justice P.B. Sawant also delivered a similar judgement, largely agreeing with the reasons given in the majority judgment. Mr. Justice S.R. Pandian upheld notification of August 13, 1990.

The majority judgment also said that the economic criterian can only be applied to identify the advanced sections among the socially and economically backward to ensure that the (?equitable) benefit of reservation go to the poorer sections among them. The court directed the union government, states, and the union territories to appoint a commission within four months, to look into the issue of inclusion and exclusion of castes in the socially, economically weaker sections. They said its advice will be binding on the government.

Mr. Justice Pinmen delivered the dissident judgment, on behalf of Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh and Mr. Justice R.N. Sahai.

The former prime minister and a Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, has described the Supreme Court judgement on the Mandal Commission recommendations as historic. He said it is an overwhelming victory of those who have been suppressed and humiliated for thousands of years.

Nonferrous Metal Exported to UAE, Pakistan

BK1811093892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] India has exported 1,155 tons of zinc and nonferrous metal to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Pakistan in April-May this year against its export target of about 10,000 tons of zinc metal. This was disclosed by the chairman, managing director of Hindustan Zinc Limited in Udaipur today. He said, earlier, India used to import zinc to meet its domestic demands.

Iran

Iran To Support 'Legitimate' Algerian Revolution

PM2011162992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran 'Freezes' Relations with Algeria"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Iran has decided to 'freeze' its relations with Algeria "until a government is formed representing the people" of Algeria. Along with that development, there has been a further deterioration in Egyptian-Iranian relations, with the Iranian Supreme Guide 'Ali Khamene'i launching a fierce personal attack on President Husni Mubarak. Khamene'i, however, denied Iranian involvement in fomenting trouble and extremism in Egypt.

On the freezing of relations with Algeria, the Iranian sources said that Tehran is committed to support what they described as "the legitimate Algerian revolution against tyranny and arrogance." The sources expect an official statement to be issued later this month exposing "Algerian plots against the Iranian revolution."

It has been reported that Algeria is preparing to bring to trial a number of instigators linked to Tehran. Some are said to have received military training in Hizballah camps in Lebanon. Hizballah is financed by Iran.

The Iranian measures include deportation of seven Algerian diplomats, closure of an Algerian cultural center in Tehran, and government instructions to Iranian banks not to give letters of credit to firms concluding trade contracts with Algeria. [passage omitted]

Guards Said To Assist Antiregime Algerians

NC2111165892 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Khomeyni regime has sent 600 of its Revolution Guards disguised as students to Arab capitals to assist antiregime Algerians. The regime's despicable conduct has reached the point that antiregime publications and statements in Algeria urging an uprising against the Algerian Government and certain Algerian citizens have been printed and disseminated in Algeria. Early this week official Algerian Government sources said that when the Algerian Government tightened surveillance and control of the networks for disseminating publications and statements, they discovered that certain publications affiliated with the Khomeyni regime groups were being faxed from the premises of the Embassy of the Iranian clerical regime in Algeria.

The Khomeyni regime has also dispatched funds and arms to groups opposed to the Algerian Government. [passage indistinct]

Egypt Assailed in Wake of Algerian Move on Ties

LD2111181992 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—A morning paper Saturday said those who pretended to be friends of Algeria and accused Iran of interfering in its internal affairs were "opportunists" disgusted by the Algerian revolutionaries until yesterday.

Pointing to the recent move by the Algerian Government to cut its diplomatic mission in Iran to a "symbolic" level, ABRAR added that the Islamic revolution of Iran and 60 million Iranian Muslims attached great importance to the fate of a friendly and brotherly country such as Algeria.

The morning daily wrote that for the Iranian nation the Algerian revolution was part of the great Islamic movement which came into being since the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"Algeria will not be forgotten by the Iranian Muslim people since in the first decisive steps taken after the establishment of the Islamic system, Iran bestowed the honor of preserving its interests to Algeria," said the article.

"Cairo," the daily stressed, "which committed treason against the Arab cause through signing the Camp David accord (with Israel), cannot be an advisor to a country such as Algeria."

If those who had inherited the Algerian revolution believed that by attributing the crisis to a country such as Iran they could hold control over the situation, "they are making a big mistake," added the paper.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a Muslim country, has always made efforts to expand relations among other Islamic states. Such an enthusiasm will not embody interests of certain groups of people standing atop power pyramids. Rather, Iran is concerned about the fate of one billion Muslims in a world where the complexity of relations would deprive the oppressed of survival," it concluded.

Daily Condemns Egypt's 'Feverish Rhetoric'

LD2111191592 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday underlined the need for a careful chronological study of socio-political developments in the Middle East, North Africa and the Persian Gulf region, and warned the Egyptian regime against opposing the popular tide.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a political analysis wrote that angry youth in Egypt and Algeria have vent their suppressed feelings because they believed that silence of their compromising leaders had further emboldened the traitors.

"The Egyptian regime, after several years of political isolation as a result of the disgraceful Camp David accord, seems to have found an opportunity to make a fresh bid for its dream of leading the Arab world, under the pretext of safeguarding Arab nationalism," noted the article.

In order to distract attention from their growing unpopularity at home, said the article, the rulers in Cairo have over the past few months tried to support the fabricated claims of the United Arab Emirates over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

However, despite all these theatrics, it added, the Egyptian regime has failed in materializing its "sweet dreams"—first because of the downgrading of their role in the controversial Arab-Israeli talks, and secondly due to the statements of the U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton who told the Arab rulers to offer further concessions to the Zionist regime.

On the other hand, it said, timed with the Egyptian regime's feverish rhetoric against Iran over the past few days, the Algerian Government unable to win the people's confidence, has reduced its diplomatic mission in Tehran to a "symbolic" level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always recommended heads of Muslim states to respect the rights of their people and refrain from hurting their Islamic sentiments, wrote the article.

It advised the Egyptian and Algerian leaders that instead of uttering rash and uncivilized words and accusing Islamic Iran of interferring in their internal affairs, it would be better if they found the roots of their internal problems and paid more attention to the demands of their people, "demands which stem from Islam and Islamic solidarity."

New Submarine Joins Naval Fleet in Bandar Abbas

LD2311115392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] The Tariq-901 submarine has joined the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval fleet.

[Correspondent] On the threshold of the 7 Azar [28 December] anniversary of the Navy, and simultaneous with the third day of the Basij week, the Tariq submarine joined the naval fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, after crossing thousands of miles and docking in naval zone one of the Bandar Abbas naval force and following formal military ceremonies and the playing of the Islamic Republic of Iran's anthem.

Mr. Mohtat, the deputy commander of our country's Navy, described the joining of the Tariq submarine to the naval fleet as in accordance with the objectives of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces in terms of upgrading the defensive potential of Iran's Islamic system. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives itself the right to equip itself with that which boosts and strengthens its defensive capability. He added: A submarine is one of the means of increasing the Islamic Republic of Iran's underwater defensive capability, and is a means with which the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to equip itself alongside its advanced surface capability.

Referring to the adverse propaganda by the enemies of the Islamic revolution, the deputy commander of our country's Navy said: Their aim in creating such a hue and cry is to establish extensive markets for the sale of arms to countries in the region and to weaken the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are not pursuing expansionist aims, our aim is to equip ourselves with advanced military facilities and resources so as to enhance our defensive potential.

Emami-Kashani Gives Friday Prayer Sermon

LD2011150392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1159 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 20 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] The discussion that I want to raise in this sermon is this: Through the power of God Almighty—and as promised in our sayings and traditions—Islam and Islamic thought are growing in every corner of the globe, thank God. And the reasons for the growth of Islam are first: the truth of Islam; second: the evil of materialist ideologies. Materialist ideologies, which used to consist of the East and the West yesterday, but consist of the West today, have disappointed the people.

Today the story of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the stories of Lebanon and Palestine before and other such stories in the world of Islam are indicative of the dishonorable materialist world. The Security Council, with all its slogans in support of the oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, said nothing more than tighten the embargo. And they did not even do this, they even helped them [the Serbs]. The suffering of the oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina gets worse every day. This is nothing but evidence of the disgrace of international organizations and [so-called] defenders of human rights. [passage omitted]

Today, not only the Muslims are awakening gradually—other Islamic regions also understand that they are really evil. They are far removed from humanity. But Islam, this shining sun of monotheism, will gradually shine through these clouds. This is why you see this movement in Islamic countries—Egypt, Algeria, and other regions. These gentlemen, the governments of these countries, blame Iran; they blame the Islamic Republic. But you should blame your own people. If a sin has been committed, it has been committed by your own people. And if it is a sin of your people, it is sin of their thoughts. In other words, it is Islam's sin—if it is a sin. Go and blame the Holy Prophet, not Iran. Iran said nothing except: this is the meaning of Islam. Did not this [Iranian] people carry the emblem preparing the grounds for the appearance of the Lord of the Age [12th Shiite Imam], may our souls be sacrificed for him, on their shoulders? [Crowd chants in support] Nothing more than this. However, truth from one side and lies from the other side have made your people move, this is the point.

If you join your own people, if you submit to the wishes of your own nation, then you will be dear to them; you will be gentlemen. Then the people will support you; and you will be less abject in front of the arrogance. What has Iran got to do with all those things? How does Iran interfere in other countries? What kind of physical activity does Iran have in other countries except ideological support, except political and propaganda support? And propaganda means explaining Islam. What kind of interference we have in Algeria, Egypt, and so on?

Your problem stems from within. If there is a problem, it is your own nation. It is Islam which is the problem to you. It is the problem of Islam and of ideology. Your people believe in Islam. As the days pass by your people and [their bond with] Islam will increase as it happened in our country. The more the shah tried to stop it, the

more it increased. That is because it comes from the hearts of the people. Join Islam!

Now the governments and the countries of the Gulf go on releasing statements, adopting positions opposed to the Islamic Republic—this same Islamic Republic which does nothing but explain Islam. Be brave; face up [to arrogance] and stand firm. How humiliated and frightened can one be? It is being frightened that prompts you to say such and such things to Iran. Yet on the other hand you hand over the riches of your countries to America, to the enemies of Islam, and to arrogance. [passage omitted]

Can those positions which you adopt affect anything? No, it can hardly have any effect. Our nation is so great, so brave, and so proud that it will slap the whole world for the sake of a handful of its own territory.

By raising so much hue and cry and by issuing such statements, you will achieve nothing other than to belittle yourself before the world. As our dear leader [Khamene'i] said, we are in fact advising you. The Islamic Republic is highly interested in maintaining good-neighborly ties. Not just because we are neighbors, but in accordance with Islamic instructions and because we are Muslims. We should join hands and shake each other's hands. We must maintain solidarity and be sincere with one another. We all pursue that objective. If the Islamic Republic is hostile toward anyone, it is hostile to global arrogance. The Islamic Republic supports Muslims and Islamic countries.

Adopting such stances against the Islamic Republic, which treats its neighbors so sincerely, would do nothing but belittle you. Be large, be brave, think of your nation, think of your aspirations, and be gentlemen. It is beneath the dignity of an Islamic country to join hands with America to such extent and to give them the so-called the green light. I hope, as our dear leader said, you will not be deceived. God willing, I hope you will not be misled by these acts of deception, preaching, and advice of the satan on earth. Your honor and glory of the Islamic countries depend on this.

The Islamic Republic has adopted a principled religious stand in the world. The Islamic Republic is amazed how you mobilized your forces against Iraq, in the wake of the Kuwaiti episode which raised our cry also, whereas you are so indifferent vis-a-vis the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina. What sort of logic is this that you are pursuing? Just as before the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry issues statements to declare our opposition to the dismemberment of Iraq. [passage omitted]

We owe our country's stability and survival to this spiritual stance. It is this spiritual stance and piety which can save the world of Islam from quagmire. Islam is based precisely on this stance. This is that upon which our values are based. [passage omitted]

Spiritual values are a source of pride. Spiritual values are fundamental. Islam advanced on the basis of these values. It was because of this spirituality that human beings stood tall and proud in history: on the basis of these values. These values, which, God be praised, exist in abundance in our country—God forbid that they should weaken. God forbid that they should lessen. God forbid that we should slowly drift away from spirituality, prayer, mosques, congregational prayers, praying to God, and so on. God forbid that we should move toward sin, lose our piety, lose our devotion, and become hollow human beings. And, God forbid, if we become hollow, we will return to the point I made in the first sermon: God will, God forbid, take this system [the Islamic Republic] away from us. [passage omitted]

GATT Viewed as Driven by U.S. Coercion

LD2211132792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary: "GATT"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the French prime minister announced that the agreement plan on agricultural products between the EC and the United States which was worked out within the GATT framework, is not acceptable from Paris's viewpoint and France believes that the talks must continue. Earlier, the U.S. President had reported an all-round agreement with the EC concerning agricultural issues. [passage omitted]

The main obstacle in the way of the recent round of GATT talks is agricultural subsidies. Agriculture in the United States, as well as in the EC, has always been considered one of the most heavily subsidized industries; the European countries and the United States pay billions of dollars a year in subsidies to their farmers. The complexity of the process of giving subsidies for agricultural products, which covers a vast network of regulations governing exports and imports, was the main topic of discussion in recent GATT sessions in which U.S. and EC representatives participated.

From the Europeans' point of view, subsidizing agriculture is a fundamental issue, whereas what the Americans are trying to do is to eliminate the Common Agricultural Policy among the Europeans. This has aroused the anger of France, a state which is known to be an agricultural superpower in its own right. Thus, apprehension about the future of Europe's economy forced French farmers to vote against the Maastricht Treaty.

On the other hand, last summer, because of the EC action in subsidizing oil-seeds, U.S. farmers sustained a loss of more than $1 billion. Washington has announced that to compensate that loss, it will increase the tariffs on foodstuffs. Washington's demand for the elimination of all EC subsidies indicates that country's coercive policy [zurmadaraneh].

The history of GATT talks shows that the Americans have always been successful in dictating their conditions on the world commerce and Washington's objective in

eliminating commercial obstacles and tariffs is to release a torrent of American products on the world markets.

West Seen Unwilling To Follow U.S. Policy on Iran

NC2111113492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Some Western countries have announced that they cannot comply with the U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the past few weeks, Washington has sought to elicit the submission of Western governments in order to exert pressure on Iran.

The U.S. State Department spokesman said yesterday that the representatives of seven Western industrial countries will convene a session today to discuss the transfer of technology to Iran. Political observers expressed the opinion that it is highly unlikely Washington will be able to gain complete agreement from Western governments to relinquish their commercial relations with Iran.

Commentary Rejects U.S. Arms Embargo Policy

LD2111131992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1054 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Pressure to Ban Arms to Iran Not Serious"]

[Text] Officials of the seven Western industrial countries met yesterday to discuss restrictions on the sale of weapons and advanced technology, with dual civilian and military application, to a number of countries including Iran.

Already the summit conference of the seven Western industrial countries, which met in Munich several months ago, had foreseen the above G7 expert meeting. Apparently, the objective of such meetings is to prevent the sale of weapons and advanced technology to countries which are not regarded as allies of the West, especially by the United States.

Despite allegations by U.S. officials, as a result of the expanding world market in arms and the undeclared Western embargo on Iran, such an embargo against countries like Iran has already been in force even without the approval of the G7. Therefore, experts believe that even if the seven industrial countries fully agree on enforcing the said embargo, it would have hardly any impact on the military capability of the target countries.

Political experts believe that if anybody is to be held responsible for creating crises in the world, especially in the Middle East, the culprit is the United States itself and some European countries who, by arming Iraq and upsetting the balance of power, brought about two major wars in the region.

Last week French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas expressed concern over Iran's arms purchases. Yet a comparison of Iran's military budget with that of other Persian Gulf countries would precisely prove otherwise. Arms purchases by Iran, considering its vast territory and high population, cannot be compared even to that of Kuwait. So what is the real reason for raising such alarms?

It seems that of the Western countries, especially the United States, are in need of such propaganda to justify their military presence in the region and their arms sales, then their vast arms sales are in blatant contradiction with the statements by their leaders regarding the need for a ban on sale of arms to crisis afflicted regions.

Meanwhile, if the commitment to restrict the sale of arms is to be honored, it would inflict a loss of billions of dollars on military industries in the United States alone, forcing a 20 percent decline in U.S. exports and axing 75,000 jobs. It does not seem that the U.S. economy is in a condition to be able to absorb such a shock. These facts can well show how serious and truthful the leaders of these countries are in making such statements. That is why, after the end of the Persian Gulf War, not only have the sales of U.S. arms not declined but, on the contrary, they have shot up to the unprecedented figure of $20 billion. The sale of that high volume of arms has led to protests, even by European countries.

Iran needs reconstruct its defense forces in view of the eight-year war with Iraq. The Islamic Republic of Iran has often announced that it has no territorial claims on its neighbors and that it desires good neighborly relations. Yet, other countries of the region, whose military might has remained untouched, are speedily buying and stockpiling arms. As an example, [Saudi] Arabia has been buying tens of aircraft from the United States and Europe with a value of billions of dollars and has thus expanded its armed forces by 40 percent.

Experts believe that one should not take meetings such as the above seriously. If pressure by the United States to prevent the sale of submarines by Russia, which is badly in need of American financial help, had succeeded, then eventually the United States' European allies would submit to its illogical requests.

Officials Oppose U.S. Moves on Hostages

PM2011941592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Officials To Be Summoned as Witnesses in Hostages Case; U.S. Memoranda Warn of Lebanese and Iranian 'Lockerbie'"]

[Excerpt] Washington, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A number of senior Iranian officials, including a former deputy prime minister, are expected to be summoned as "material witnesses" in two cases brought by two of the U.S. citizens once held hostage in

Beirut. A number of top Shiite militia leaders in Lebanon are also expected to be summoned to appear either as defendants or witnesses.

A U.S. Justice Department source said yesterday that once the identities of those to be charged or asked to appear as witnesses are confirmed, warrants will be issued for their arrest for for them to be brought in "through the relevant international organizations such as the Interpol."

The source also said "we will act in the same way we acted in the case of the Libyan officials accused of complicity in the bombing of the Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie."

Washington's latest moves were condemned in Tehran and Beirut yesterday. A source close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the recent U.S. moves confirmed that the United States wants "an all-out confrontation" with Iran.

He added: "It seems that they (the Americans) want to put maximum pressure on us."

Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul also criticized the U.S. move, saying that it is "wrong" to reopen the hostages file.

He also claimed that Hizballah leaders received promises that no judicial measures would be taken against them after the release of the hostages. [passage omitted]

West Accused of Turning Arabs From Main Issue

LD1911132092 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in an editorial on Thursday that the West and the Zionist regime are trying to pose Iran as the principal threat to the Arab governments of the region because the big powers intend to preoccupy the Arab governments not with the actual threat of the Zionist regime but with a purely imaginary enemy.

It said concentration on Iran as an actual or potential threat, however unfounded it may be, would divert the attention of the Arab governments from the Zionist regime and whitewash their wretched setbacks in their confrontation with Israel.

The commentary said in part:

"To try to alarm the Arabs of the threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not a new policy promoted by the West and Israel. From the outset the West and Israel tried to dissuade the Arabs from forming positive relations with the Islamic republic. It was precisely for the same reason that they made the Iraqi government invade Iran and called on the camps of the reactionary Arab governments to support the invaders.

"The savage attacks by Baghdad eventually turned to the disadvantage of all Arab governments of the region, each of the supporters of the hangman of Baghdad partaking of the infamy and wretchedness and the disgrace entailing Baghdad's defeat in the second round of Saddam's crimes. And today Israel intends to take advantage of the same weakness and wretchedness which the Arabs imposed on themselves with their own hands.

"The seventh round of Arab-Israeli talks started out in the same atmosphere as created by Israel. Earlier this week the Arab sides to the talks with Israel bitterly realized that they would not reap any benefits from the talks but the infamy and the self-abasement of alignment with Israel. But at the same time the camp of the arrogant world powers is trying to divert the public conscience of the Arab world toward another issue, that is the issue of the so-called 'threat of Iran' in a bid to whitewash that gross setback of the Arabs...

"The ultimate question to be answered is whether such governments as are in France, England, and the United States really wish to see a stable (Persian Gulf) region? If the answer is 'yes' why then did Washington give the green light to the Baghdad government to occupy Kuwait? Why later it adopted highly crafty devices to curb the peaceful settlement of the problem? Why did the United States destroy hundreds of billions worth of the wealth and equipment of the Arab nations in the course of that barbarous war? Why does the United States still continue to succumb to the same temptations? The Arab nations of the region would do well to appreciate the implications of such tangible realities and protect themselves against slipping into a new trap laid on their way by the arrogant world powers and by the savage Zionists."

The commentary in continuation reflected on the new claims laid on the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and the Lesser Tunb at the Persian Gulf saying that the ballyhoo on the islands is part of an integrated scenario.

It referred to an assembly earlier this week by member states of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council which was boycotted by Qatar saying, "the release of that political communique (in relation to the three islands of Iran) by a group of people who are essentially involved with military and basically with no experience in drafting political communiques betrays the invalidity of the communique which was the reason why what was issued was so baseless, wobbly and unfounded that it was not taken seriously even at the royal courts of the region.

"It is a pity," said the commentary, "that at a time that all Muslim nations should be mobilizing their help to the oppressed people in Bosnia-Hercegovina the Arab governments are trying to divert the attention of the Muslim world from the main problems. All evidence attests to the fact that the more the arrogant powers do to reach their goal and the more of their prestige the dependent governments should sacrifice for the same goal, the more infamous they will become and the more they will suffer..."

Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Tehran

Meets Velayati

LD2211120892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Deputy Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Villar, who is presently in Tehran, met with our country's foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, this morning. During the meeting, Velayati expressed his satisfaction with the results of the two countries' joint commission which was recently convened in Spain, and the growing trend of the two countries' relations.

For his part, the Spanish deputy foreign minister remarked on the importance his country attaches to further promotion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. Underlining the IRI's key role in the region, he praised our country's policy in world affairs and in international forums.

Discusses Peace With Counterpart

LD2211084792 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi told his Spanish counterpart Mr. Villar here today that Iran's prime policy is the country's reconstruction and support of atomic, biological and chemical disarmament.

Va'ezi termed as "unfounded" the recent propaganda that Iran is acquiring arms, and said the goal of Iran is to strive for peace, stability and security, and guarantee "good" relations among world countries and in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

Villar in reply described as "important" the Islamic Republic's regional and international role, and called for improvement of Tehran-Madrid bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, industrial, cultural and parliamentary fields.

The Spanish official considered as "highly important" Irano-Spanish technological-technical cooperation and their long term industrial relations.

Ministers Urge Action on Bosnia

LD2211204992 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran today urged the international community, especially European countries, to take practical measures to end the massacre of Europe's native Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The call was made by deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, in his meeting with visiting Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Villar.

"European states should undertake the heavy task of halting these inhuman (Serbian) acts, and should put other practical steps on their agenda such as the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia," he added.

The Spanish official held the Serbian authorities "directly responsible" for creating the crisis in the Balkans, and stressed that necessary steps be taken to stop this "unprecedented slaughter."

Villar and Va'ezi also discussed the problems faced by the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, and agreed that security and stability of these states is an important factor for maintaining world peace.

"Iran harbours no expansionist intents concerning the said countries, and our efforts for membership of these republics in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international bodies is a proof of this policy," Va'ezi said.

He also outlined Iran's initiatives to create peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, noting that mutual understanding and cooperation among the Persian Gulf littoral states, is vital for regional peace and security.

The two officials also studied resumption of Tehran-Madrid flights in the near future, and described it as a channel through which the two peoples could become familiar with each other.

Villar Meets National Security Leader

LD2211192992 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Europe should stop looking through American glasses, and should view Islamic Iran in its true perspective, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani told the Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Villar here today.

"Europe should not judge the Islamic Republic from the eyes of the enemies of the Islamic revolution including the U.S. and the Zionist regime. Rather, Europe is able to comprehend the current realities, and Iran is ready to prepare necessary facilities in this regard," he said.

Rowhani urged European states to adopt a real independent position in view of the U.S. record of provocations against other countries.

He dismissed as "biased and far from the truth," the Western propaganda on Iran's military power and arms purchases.

Iran's arms purchases is less than a fifth of the amount spent on arms by certain neighbouring states, and the fact is Iran has not attacked any country since the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979), pointed out the official.

"On the contrary we were attacked directly by Iraq and the U.S.," Rowhani said, adding that Iran's military power is only to defend the national interests of the Islamic Republic.

Rowhani who is also chairman of the Majles (parliament) Defence Policy Committee, said the U.S. attempt to reverse history and return to the past is futile.

"The era of leadership of a single country over the whole world has come to an end. The world will not accept U.S. leadership," he stressed.

On human rights, Rowhani said that turning the issue into a political one contradicts the objectives and spirit of the human rights charter in addition to harming the human being itself.

He warned the United Nations and its agencies not to be influenced by the political developments in world countries, otherwise many countries and nations would become disappointed of the function of these circles.

Villar in reply elaborated on Spain's potentials to expand cooperation with Iran in the areas of tourism, and establishment of an airlink between the two countries.

He praised Iran's relentless struggle against drug trafficking as "very important", and said the Spanish Parliament has a positive outlook in this respect.

The two sides also expressed readiness to set up fraternity groups at the two countries' parliaments.

Khomeyni Reaffirms Rushdie Edict, Assails Egypt

LD2311115092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] At a meeting of participants in the first nationwide seminar of deputy heads for publicity of the Public Relations department of the Ideological-Political Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Law Enforcement Force last night, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni described the useless claims put forward about the violation of human rights in Islamic Iran as one of the worn-out ploys of western forums for debasing the revolution and the [Islamic Republic's]. He reminded that human rights are being blatantly violated in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the occupied territories of Palestine, southern Lebanon, and Kashmir.

He added: The fundamental principles of our Islamic system are based on combatting values that are antireligious and our criteria are God's commands, and acting on God's commands regarding the apostate Salman Rushdie is also based on Islamic criteria.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the claims of the Egyptian regime that Iran is inciting the Muslim people of that country and said: They know very well that the people of Egypt have realized that Islam has shown them the path to happiness.

Daily Terms Support for Rushdie 'Futile'

LD1611095192 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' Monday said the efforts of certain countries to support apostate Salman Rushdie were futile because Imam Khomeyni's death sentence against him was a divine verdict and not a state one.

Last week, foreign ministers of Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway and Sweden decided to officially protest to Iran for not lifting the death sentence against Rushdie.

Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses,' is making efforts to force Iran to lift the edict through convincing the countries with good trade ties with Iran to impose sanctions on or sever ties with Iran, the daily's editorial said.

It underlined that the death verdict on Rushdie was not one issued by the state or against any particular country but rather a religious ruling against an apostate.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an Islamic Government, has recognized the rights of the followers of other divine religions and is obliged to defend such rights even if the attack (against other divinely religions) comes from a Muslim.

Tehran Respects Decision of Afghan Muslim Nation

LD2311111092 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—A senior Iranian official said here Saturday that Tehran respects the decision of the Afghan Muslim nation for determination of their future government.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi made the remark in a meeting with the visiting special envoy of the Afghan Government Hojatoleslam Erfani, who is currently here to explain the decisions of Afghanistan's Leadership Council and Settlement Council. He also expressed hope that the Afghan leaders would implement their decisions through cooperation and open-mindedness as soon as possible.

Turning to the return of Afghan refugees to their home country, he said that the process would be carried out on the basis of the approvals of and facilities provided by the tripartite commission grouping Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations.

Hojatoleslam Erfani, who is a member of the Central Council of the Islamic Unity Party, said that the Islamic Government of Afghanistan has done its best to solve the political problem of the country's future through formation of the Settlement Council. He said that members of the 1,200-man Settlement Council are chosen by the Leadership Council in proportion with the population of each province. He added that 20 percent of the members

of the Settlement Council will be chosen on the basis of population of each province to form the Consultative Assembly of Afghanistan.

NGO Group To Review Afghan Refugees' Return

LD2211174792 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—A delegation from the international Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) reviewed the return of Afghan refugees to their country with the Interior Ministry's Director General for Expatriate Affairs Ahmad Husayni here today.

The delegation led by Ms. Elizabeth Winter, is to cooperate with Iran and Afghanistan in the programmes for the return home of Afghan refugees.

Husayni announced in the meeting that Iran is ready to use facilities and cooperation of NGOs in the world.

Although NGOs and charity organisations [illegible] the burden of refugees problems in many countries, they haven't made any attempt to settle the problems of refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said.

Habibi Meets With Afghan Health Minister

LD1411175692 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy President Hasan Habibi in his meeting with Afghan Acting Health Minister, Mohammad Amin Fatemi, here today, announced Iran's readiness to help Afghanistan.

Habibi expressed hope that Afghanistan would soon overcome its problems and take up reconstruction in the best possible manner.

The Afghan diplomat, who has visited a number of Iranian health centers, hoped that the Islamic Government of Afghanistan could share Iran's experiences, especially in the medical fields.

Afghan Ulema in Qom Urges Bosnian Islamic Army

LD1311152192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Participants of the fifth assembly of the Afghan ulema and spiritual leaders issued a resolution in support of the Muslim nation of Bosnia-Hercegovina and called for the establishment of a powerful Islamic army to safeguard the lives of the Muslim people of that country.

The opening session of the assembly was held in Qom yesterday morning. Ayatollah Fazel-Lankarani, secretary of the Qom Seminary's Management Council, the representative of the honourable leader [Khamenei] in Afghan Affairs [Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Ebrahimi], a number of persons from the Islamic Unity [Wahdat] Party [of Afghanistan], and a large group of Afghan ulema and spiritual leaders who are resident at the Qom Seminary were present at the gathering. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi said: Enemies of Islam are creating civil war in Afghanistan and are fanning the flames of tribal and religious differences to stop the establishment of a strong Islamic country alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran. At such a sensitive situation spiritual leaders of Afghanistan should become further involved with their own people and assist them to reconstruct the ruins that have remained from the previous regime. [passage omitted]

Agreement With Australia on Tech Transfer Noted

NC2211074292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Australia have agreed to collaborate in establishing a gold processing factory in Esfahan and to manufacture coke from petroleum in Qeshm. Coke is widely used in the steel industries and for smelting aluminum. Oman will also invest in the coke factory.

Mines and Metals Minister Mahlujchi made the aforementioned announcement, adding: According to the agreement, Australia will cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in technology transfer and construction of a hotel.

Mahlujchi said that the private sector will participate in the construction of the 500-room hotel.

Bahrain, Iran Urge Stronger Mutual Ties

LD2011193492 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov. 20, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariat-Madari, in Manama to attend the Bahrain 92 Autumn Fair, on Thursday held talks with Bahraini emir Shaykh 'Isa bin-Salman al-Khalifah on various regional and bilateral issues. The two officials discussed growing Tehran-Manama ties especially in the fields of commerce and economy.

Recalling his previous meetings with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, al-Khalifah expressed hope that Iran and Bahrain will jointly work with mutual goodwill and cooperation, for regional peace and stability and for growth and development in the two countries.

He also underlined the depth of Islamic neighborliness and fraternity among the regional states and called for expansion of mutual relations, economic cooperation and avoiding of conflicts in the region.

Shariat-Madari referring to the "positive" changes in relations between the two countries, particularly in the field of economic exchanges, emphasized that regional tranquility was among Iran's top priorities. "We are ready to further regional cooperation in order to strengthen this tranquility," he told the Bahraini amir.

The 10-day "Bahraini 92" fair was inaugurated on Thursday in the presence of representatives of numerous foreign companies. Bahraini top economic and political officials including minister of commerce and agriculture, as well as the Iranian deputy commerce minister.

The Bahraini minister of commerce visited various Iranian pavilions and praised their active presence and the high quality goods on display. Some 35 Iranian companies are attending the fair.

Congress on Science in Central Asia Ends

LD1811231192 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The first ever international congress on scientific and cultural cooperation in Central Asia, attended by scholars and cultural officials from 26 countries, closed here Wednesday by releasing a declaration.

The 'Tehran declaration' has categorized the five fields of cooperation as education, science and technology, culture, social sciences and their applications, and communication, information and informatics.

The meeting, jointly sponsored by Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), calls for scientific cooperation between Central Asian Republics and other regional states in the field of seismology, by using the experiences of Iran's International Institute of Earthquake Engineering.

Regarding bio-technology, the declaration stresses cooperation between those republics and Iran's center for genetic engineering and biotechnology, and suggests holding of seminars for scientific and technological cooperation between the newly-independent republics and other regional countries.

On cultural cooperation, the declaration calls on UNESCO to try to conserve and restore the rich Islamic cultural heritage of Central Asia using the potentials of UNESCO member states. It stresses the establishment of a computerized catalogue of archives and the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish manuscripts of those republics.

The declaration suggests exchanges of information and experience in the social sciences, particularly with a view to building capacities in disciplines whose application is most required in the present phase of transition.

It demands that UNESCO establish a united regional broadcasting service to unite Central Asian countries and also set up regional satellites.

Minister Signs Cooperation Documents in Baku

LD2011222892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have signed a memorandum of understanding on economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. According to a Central News Unit report from Baku, the memorandum of understanding was signed in Baku by our country's cooperatives minister, Mr. Shafe'i, and the Azeri deputy parliamentary speaker, Mr. (Jalilov), heads of the two countries' joint commission.

Economic Protocols Signed With Turkmenistan

LD2011223992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Seventeen economic and commercial protocols to the value of $6.76 million were signed today by industry directors from the provinces of Khorasan and Mazandaran, and 10 reputable Turkmen companies at the site of the second exclusive Iranian exhibition in Ashkabad. According to the IRNA reporter in Ashkabad, the protocols deal with the construction of a tin manufacturing company, a gas heater production company, and a notable amount of foodstuffs and clothing.

Interior Minister, PRC Security Official Meet

LD2211201892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. Jiang Xianjin, Chinese deputy minister of public security, met Interior Minister Nuri today. Mr. Jiang described as very good the discipline and order of the law enforcement forces and their contribution toward maintaining social stability in Iran. He emphasized the necessity for order and security in society and considered that this is a factor making for economic expansion.

For his part, Mr. Nuri pointed to the grounds for joint cooperation in combating narcotics and expressed interest in the expansion of bilateral relations. He also said that the Interior Ministry is ready for joint cooperation with relevant institutions in China.

Presidential Adviser Talks With Zairean Official

LD1511171292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. Kamanda, adviser and special envoy of the Zaire president, today met Mr. Moa'yeri, [Iranian] presidential adviser on international affairs. Mr. Moa'yeri explained the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and pointed to its priorities and bilateral relations with African countries. Mr. Kamanda then explained the political and economic conditions of his country and called for the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Rafsanjani Chairs Meeting on 'Cultural Onslaught'

LD2111193292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] At a meeting today of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, cultural issues—taking the existing priorities and needs into account—were debated.

At the meeting, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance was commissioned to draw up a plan of campaign against the cultural onslaught, regarding videos, satellite television, cinema, theater, the Voice and Vision [Tehran radio and television], and other media, in the next six months, and submit it to the council.

Resistance Figure Urges 'Force' Against Regime

NC2111110892 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sanobar Zahedi, secretary of the National Council for Iranian Resistance, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried during the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Zahedi, secretary of the National Council for Iranian Resistance, the Iranian regime continues its persistent efforts to train and export terrorist elements and undermine stability in several countries. How can Tehran harmonize this behavior with its demand to be given a role in attaining security in the Gulf? It is exercising a policy of hegemony in the region. How can it undermine stability and at the same time demand a role in achieving security and stability?

[Zahedi] I believe that the security that this regime seeks in the region is actually a state of insecurity. I mean that the regime does not want security. It merely wants to impose its concepts on the region. This is the security it wants. Since it came to power in Iran 13 years ago, the region has known no security, stability, or tranquility. When it speaks of participating in security, this means it wants to exercise regional domination. Its references to security are merely a justification. It wants to sow sedition and division among the Arab brothers. It is not an issue of security. That is only a justification. Its studied plan is to destabilize the region, particularly the Gulf.

I wish to note that several years ago, [Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud] Rajavi was interviewed by the Spanish newspaper LA PAIS. He said that if Khomeyni was given the chance, he would come to Spain. We now see that Khomeyni's ideas have reached Spain's doorstep in Algeria. The issue is that following the Gulf war, the regime focused on North Africa for a while, particularly on Algeria and Tunisia. Its strategic aim, however, is to provoke problems in the most important Arab countries, beginning with the Gulf states, specifically Saudi Arabia, and then Egypt. After a period of relative calm, it began inciting unrest in the Gulf and Egypt.

We address a message to all the Arab brothers, particularly our Egyptian and Gulf brothers: We of the Mojahedin-e Khalq are Muslims and this regime professes Islam. The difference between us and other Arabs and Muslims is that we fought this regime and came to know it well. This regime understands only the language of force. We believe it must be confronted with the same language, firmly and decisively. Unless thus confronted, it will not show any leniency, flexibility, or tolerance. If another country addresses it with flexibility, tolerance, and goodwill, the regime will interpret this as weakness. Hence, one cannot describe this regime as normal or natural, or as one believing in diplomatic or political rules. It is thirstily fomenting crises, unrest, and disorder everywhere. It must be confronted with its own method: force. We call on the brothers to close ranks and adopt a uniformly decisive and firm stance against this regime. We of the Iranian resistance tried long and hard to make the regime accept a modicum of democracy, but daily we saw that its response to this demand consisted of executions, torture, assassinations, and massacres. Consequently, we had no recourse but armed resistance.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Zahedi, we hope the Iranian regime will listen to reason. At the conclusion of this dialogue, we thank you and welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Zahedi] I thank you and the Egyptian public. We hope we will succeed in bringing liberty and democracy to Iran and peace and tranquility to this sensitive region. This can occur only by overthrowing the mullahs' regime. We pray to God that the day will come when we can live together in fraternity, friendship, security, and peace.

Discusses Foreign Policy

NC2011103992 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sanobar Zahedi, secretary of the National Council for Iranian Resistance, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Zahedi, we welcome you to our program.

[Zahedi] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Zahedi, first of all we would like you to give us your opinion on the dimensions and significance of the recent Iranian campaign against Egypt and the Gulf countries.

[Zahedi] Actually, this new campaign by the mullahs' regime is motivated by general and specific factors. The general factors have to do with the troubles the regime currently is experiencing. The regime is beset by domestic economic, social, and political problems. The political problems arise from the escalation of resistance against the regime in various Iranian urban and rural

areas. The regime knows it is being challenged by various resistance forces that recently succeeded in carrying out major attacks and operations in Tehran and other cities. You may have heard that the resistance forces recently succeeded in blowing up Khomeyni's tomb, which is a symbol of the regime. The resistance also blew up the headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards in Tehran. The regime's inability to stop these operations has placed it in an awkward political position.

The regime also is unable to deal with its acute economic problems. The regime always had claimed that it does not have any foreign debts, but we recently obtained information from sources within the regime indicating that its foreign indebtedness has reached $32 billion. The regime is unable to pay its foreign debt. Last year, the regime exceeded its budget allocations for imports by $7 billion, due to its weapons purchases.

There is so much poverty and economic deprivation in Iran. The economic situation is disastrous. The regime admits that more than 80 percent of Iranians live below the poverty line. This means more than 80 percent of the Iranian people live on less than $1 per day. The regime has been incapable of resolving any of its economic problems.

Furthermore, rivalries among various wings of the mullahs' regime are on the rise. You may know that many have placed hopes on [President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani's ability to make changes in Iran. Actually, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has done little more than engage in maneuvers. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is just another mullah, not at all different from Khomeyni and Khamene'i. Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not graduate from Harvard, Oxford, or even Tehran University. He is a Khomeyni disciple. He built his reputation, when Khomeyni was alive, as a major architect of Khomeyni's policy. Up to now, I think Hashemi-Rafsanjani has embodied Khomeyni's ideas more than anyone. He is a charlatan with a flair for maneuvering. He pretended that he is more moderate and open toward his neighbors and the West, but I think his recent acts have dashed all the hopes previously pinned on him.

[Al-Jundi] Can I sum up what you have just told us by saying that internal strife and the economic problems in Tehran were the motives behind Iran's unethical foreign policy?

[Zahedi] Yes, as I told you, this is it. The regime has developed internal problems that it could not resolve because of its bigoted and medieval characteristics. The regime is incapable of addressing the problems of 60 million people who live in the last decade of the 20th century. By creating crises, confusion, and troubles abroad, the regime hopes to export its own problems.

The regime's conduct abroad deserves a close look. Following the end of the Gulf war, the regime took note of the change in the regional power balance and stepped in to impose its hegemony on the entire region. The issue is not Abu Musa Island or anything so simple. The regime wants to fill the vacuum in the region. This is why it has gone on a binge buying all the different weapons it can lay its hands on.

[Al-Jundi] We recently heard that Iran obtained three nuclear-powered submarines.

[Zahedi] Yes. According to available information, the regime has imported three submarines from Russia and is about to make another deal to buy two more submarines. So, we are talking about five submarines. We have definite information that the regime made a deal with Kazakhstan to buy four nuclear warheads. The warheads deal already has been concluded, but the two sides still are looking into the method of delivering these warheads to Iran. As you may know, it is a bit difficult to move nuclear warheads around.

So, the regime is building up its weapons arsenal through purchases from various sources—particularly China, North Korea, and the former Soviet republics—and is squandering the Iranian people's wealth to finance this endeavor. The regime hopes to use this arsenal as a means of imposing its hegemony on the entire region.

The regime's stockpiling of arms should be viewed in relation to its other practices. The regime's unethical and un-Islamic campaign against Egypt and its practices in other Arab and Islamic countries—including Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, and Jordan—are part of its bid to export its problems. The regime seeks to instigate Khomeyni-style groups in these countries. The regime believes that it cannot stay in power without instigating such groups. This is its national security strategy. The regime admits that its national security strategy is based on encouraging Khomeyni-style extremists in other Islamic countries. The regime started out with Algeria and Sudan and later began providing this service to Egypt, Tunisia, and Central Asian republics.

Red Cross Reports on Talks With Iranian POWs

LD2011134092 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 20, IRNA—The International Committee of the Red Cross announced here Thursday that its officers had interviewed 64 Iranian prisoners of war, including two pilots whose fighter had been shot down during the war with Iraq. The announcement said while inspecting the Rumadi POW Camp No. 4, located 100 kms west of Baghdad in April, the ICRC officials had talked with the Iranian POWs and inspected their living conditions and health status.

The announcement also said the POWs had been taken after the Shiite uprising in Spring 1991, but said nothing about the other Iranian POWs. [as received]

The ICRC started fresh efforts in January 1991 to secure the release of the remaining POWs in Iraq and Iran. Most of the POWs have been exchanged under the ICRC supervision after 1988. Iran and Iraq fought a bloody

war for eight years, which finally ended in August 1988 after the United Nations brokered a ceasefire through Security Council Resolution 598.

UN Human Rights Envoy Criticizes Iran's Policy

LD2211185892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Galindo Pohl, the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] envoy, submitted a new report to the UN General Assembly. In this report he termed the execution of drug traffickers as an example of human rights violations in Iran. Galindo Pohl says: Iran does not cooperate with the UNHRC.

He visited Iran three times and had private talks with prisoners and convicted individuals. During his visits to Iran, Galindo Pohl inspected every place he wanted to see. He asked to be allowed to visit Iran for a fourth time. Galindo Pohl stressed that his new report on the human rights situation in Iran was prepared on the basis of what he has heard from non-Iranian sources.

Commentary Views Basij Force Potential

NC2111165392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Every year, Basij Week is celebrated from 21 to 26 November. This week provides a valuable opportunity for renewing our pledge with the era of the active presence of the basij force during the various periods, especially during the imposed war.

One of the effective and major innovations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—was the establishment of the Basij-e Mostaz'afin [Mobilization of the Oppressed] force, nine months after the victory of the Islamic revolution. A new culture called the basiji culture emerged, was pioneered by the basij, and reigns over all aspects of society in a constant and perpetual manner.

In principle, all institutions, including official and nonofficial ones, watch over specific objectives, and the basij's objectives are embodied in two major concepts; namely, participation in extensive plans and programs to combat various politico-military and cultural crises. It is quite clear that in the event of a social crisis, a popular institution that has already been established should act energetically as a dynamic reserve force and should be able to eliminate a major part of various problems.

At its inception, the military aspect was one of the most important aspects of the basij force, because in the sensitive and fateful moments of the onset of the revolution the country was faced with various internal and external threats, especially the imposed war.

Undoubtedly, one of the decisive factors determining the military balance during the imposed war was the constant and active presence of the basij force, who, like a fast and seething current, went to the fronts by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's decree.

After Resolution 598 was accepted in the second decade of the revolution, which was named the era of reconstruction, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni insisted on preserving and expanding the basij, so the force was entrusted with the duties of maintaining an active presence at the scene of the country's reconstruction and the general training of those sections of society, as well as of strengthening the country's defense structure. The basij was also assigned to safeguard the country's national security in purging society and combating the enemy's cultural onslaught.

In view of the current international situation and the superpowers' latest policy in neutralizing the gains of the Islamic revolution at home and abroad, and in view of the recent utterances of the great leader of the Islamic revolution addressed to the basijis regarding a precise identification of internal and external enemies, this force and especially the commanders of the basij units all over the country have distinctive responsibilities.

A point that should never be ignored is the role of the presence of the various sections of the people, especially women, in basij formations. The multifaceted and extensive participation of student seminarians, students, scholars, employees, workers, farmers, and tribesmen, at every juncture, indicates that this organization is not limited to any particular institution or social establishment. If general participation is eliminated from the basij organizational structure, it will become an institution like any other social institution.

Today, in view of the cultural policy that the enemy is hatching against the Islamic revolution and the fact that the Islamic revolution formulates its international relations within the framework of its reliance on its ideology and independence, the creation of a suitable backing necessary for the constant presence of the people on the scene assumes fundamental importance.

The great leader of the Islamic revolution repeatedly stressed the role of the basij in construction and in combating the enemy's various plots and called for a greater presence of the basijis in various social spheres, especially in cultural issues.

Thus, the strategy of mobilizing the people is based on a definitive pattern of construction and expansion, as well as boosting willingness to combat the enemies' policies. This in itself is able to direct the course of society toward independence in the cultural, social, and economic spheres and will insure the country's national security. All of this requires officials to pay more attention than ever to this great popular force.

Governor General of Central Province Announced

LD2111113492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] At a Central Province Administrative Council session this morning, Interior Minister Nuri introduced Mr Mas'ud Soltanifar as the new governor general of the province. During the session, Mr Nuri praised the efforts of the former Central Province governor general.

Population Growth Figures Disclosed

LD1811165992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Summary] According to a survey by the Iran Statistics Center, the country's population has risen by 10 million to 60 million and Tehran's population has risen by 1.2 million to 7.2 million in the past six years. The population growth rate has dropped from 3.2 to 2.9 percent. Announcing the news, an official at the Center attributed the fall to the success of the population control program.

Minister Reports 211 AIDS Cases in Iran

LD2211202992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Excerpts] In an interview with journalists, Mr. Maleki, deputy minister for health affairs at the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training, explained issues concerning AIDS in the world and said that the best way of preventing this disease is to teach people more about preventive measures. [passage omitted] He cautioned people about scratches when using instruments on the skin, such as for piercing the ears, tattooing, venesection, and barbers' razors.

He said in conclusion that 211 cases of AIDS have been identified in Iran.

New Wharf Enables Port Operations To Resume

LD1511112792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Khorramshahr Port's four-berth wharf has commenced operations. The first cargo vessels, with a capacity of 85 tonnes, have been loaded at this wharf. They are destined for Kuwait.

Now that Khorramshahr Port's four-berth wharf is functioning, export and import operations at the port, which ceased during the imposed war, are resuming. Three cargo vessels, with a total capacity of 85 tonnes, were loaded. The consignment, bound for Kuwait, included foodstuffs and vegetables valued at 35 million rials.

In this connection, Khorramshahr's governor called on the owners of cargo and commercial vessels throughout Iran to carry out all their loading and unloading operations in this port. He also said that next week several cargo vessels from the Persian Gulf ports will arrive in Khorramshahr in order to unload their cargo. It is worth mentioning that Khorramshahr's wharf is 800 meters long and there is an adjacent warehouse, measuring 4,000 square meters, facilitating loading and unloading operations for vessels having a draft of 2 meters. All customs services and facilities are offered at the port.

Mines Ministry Reports 1992 Export Increase

LD2211185792 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—During the first half of the current calendar year (March 21-September 22), Iran exported as much as dlrs 99 million worth of non-ferrous metals, according to the Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

Zinc concentrate produced last year was up by 221 per cent as compared to that of the previous year, and during March-September this year was up by 71 per cent as compared to the similar period last year.

National production of anode and cathode copper last year was respectively up by 41 and 37 per cent as compared to the previous year. During the first six months of the current year, they were respectively up by 15 and 14 per cent.

The Mines and Metals Ministry recently had 28 projects under way for working alumina, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, mercury, gold, titanium and magnesium mines. 10 of those projects were completed last year and of the remaining projects two are undertaken by the national steel industries of Iran and the rest are by the office of the non-ferrous metals of the Mines and Metals Ministry.

This year a total of rls [rials] 18.825 billion has been earmarked for the remaining 18 projects.

Pakistan

Bhutto Supporters Hold Anti-Government Rallies

Police Crack Down in Balochistan

BK2111083192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 21 (AFP)—Police used tear gas to disperse supporters of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in the Balochistan capital on Saturday amid a business shutdown.

Police were seen going into action at more than dozen sites to stop demonstrators from defying a government ban on gatherings.

All main markets in Quetta were shut and vehicular traffic was sparse. Government departments and banks remained open.

The opposition People's Democratic Alliance had called for a general strike and rally to protest Bhutto's expulsion from Islamabad and the government's use of force to foil a march by her supporters on the capital Wednesday.

More than 30 people were arrested in Quetta, including the opposition leader in the Balochistani assembly, Mir Baz Khetran, opposition sources and witnesses said.

Police Arrest Supporters Ahead of Rally

BK2111091892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 21 (AFP)—Police have searched and detained supporters of Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto ahead of a planned rally Saturday in nearby Rawalpindi, amid reports of a crackdown on demonstrators in south-western Balochistan. [word indistinct] launched raids early Saturday in different localities of Rawalpindi, during which they entered private houses and detained a number of activists from the Bhutto-led People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), witnesses said.

Police armed with batons and tear gas surrounded the city's Liaquat Gardens to prevent PDA supporters gathering there prior to a planned march on Islamabad to press for fresh elections.

Bhutto was in Karachi planning a two-day cross-country train journey which she and other leaders of the four-party PDA plan to start Monday to muster support for the election call.

The PDA leaders plan to address crowds at railway stations along the 1,600-kilometer (1,000 mile) route from Karachi to Rawalpindi. Government leaders have warned that any attempt to disrupt law and order will be sternly dealt with. [passage omitted]

Attempt To Reach Parliament Fails

BK2111161092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] According to Associated Press of Pakistan, two small groups of People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] extremists tried to march toward Liaqat Gardens in Rawalpindi and parliament house in Islamabad and to disrupt public transport, but the security personnel thwarted their attempts by resorting to mild baton charges and arrests of some people. The general public did not pay any attention to the politics of agitation. The life in Islamabad and Rawalpindi remained normal. The vehicles plied on the streets without any hindrance, and the attendance in offices and educational institutions was as usual.

According to the news agency, about 200 PDA extremists gathered in front of Jinnah Park in Peshawar and started to raise slogans. They marched up to (Dashtnagri) Gate where they were dispersed by the police, which resorted to a mild baton charge. The police say no arrests were made there and the situation in other areas of the city remained peaceful and the people remained busy in their daily affairs.

A press note issued by the district magistrate in Quetta this evening says that responding to the appeal by the opposition parties, certain people attempted to take out a procession in the city, defying prohibitory orders under Section 144. The participants of the procession threw stones at some places. The law enforcement agencies fired some tear gas shells to prevent them from doing so and to disperse them. Some people were arrested, but they were later released after being warned. The situation is under control.

Bhutto Denied Seat on Train

BK2211161492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Karachi, Nov 22 (AFP)—Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she would go through with a planned train journey aimed at rallying support for her anti-government campaign, despite being denied a seat.

Addressing a news conference here, the former premier said that despite obstructions created by the government, her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) would proceed with the second stage of its campaign to mobilise support for fresh elections.

Bhutto and her mother had reserved 14 places for top PDA leaders who were to leave this port city on the Peshawar-bound Khyber Mail express late Monday. The leaders has planned to address supporters at railway stations on the way.

However, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said Sunday that the train was already fully booked and no extra coaches could be attached.

During her press conference, Bhutto accused Sharif of pursuing policies that would plunge the country into crisis.

"Nawaz Sharif's high handedness and arogant policies show that he is bent upon forcing the country into a civil war," she said.

Bhutto also accused the government of hatching a conspiracy to eliminate key opposition leaders.

Police on Alert for Train Campaign

BK2311114492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 23 NOV 92

[Text] Karachi, Nov 23 (AFP)—Pakistani police have been placed on alert at stations along the route of a planned trair. journey by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, aimed at rallying support for her anti-government campaign, railway sources said Monday.

The authorities have bolstered security by drafting in extra men in addition to the railway's own police, the sources said.

Bhutto and her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) colleagues as well as politicians from the like-minded National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were due to board the Peshawar-bound Khyber Mail express from Karachi late Monday, PDA officials said.

They intend to address people at stations along the 1,600 kilometer (1,000 mile) route to Rawalpindi, to build support for their call for fresh elections.

Five days ago, police aborted a PDA attempt to organize a mass march on the nation's capital as part of the ongoing campaign and speculation was rife here that the authorities might intervene to prevent the opposition leaders boarding the train.

Bhutto and her mother Nusrat Bhutto have already been banned from entering Islamabad and its twin city of Rawalpindi as well as the entire North West Frontier Province.

It was still unclear if Bhutto and the other leaders had actually managed to purchase tickets for the train journey. Railway sources said they were still on the waiting list having been told that the Khyber Mail was fully booked.

The train has scheduled stops at over half a dozen stations during its 700-kilometer (440-mile) hop through Bhutto's home province of Sindh.

Railway sources said the train would halt for 20 minutes at Hyderabad and for 45 minutes at the main Rohri junction, with all other stops being of two to three minute duration. The PDA leadership has urged people not to show up at Sindh railway stations because the train will steam through the province at night. However, observers said sizeable gatherings were likely due to the wide support Bhutto enjoys in Sindh.

Around daybreak on Tuesday, the train will enter Punjab—economically and politically the most important of Pakistan's four provinces.

A PDA announcement said the alliance leaders would break their journey for a day at the provincial capital of Lahore, boarding a different train Thursday for Rawalpindi.

Bhutto will disembark at Jhelum, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the Dawn newspaper said Monday that the government had decided to try hundreds of political workers arrested after the PDA's failed march on the capital.

The PDA says some 25,000 activists have been detained throughout the country over the past several days, while the government puts the figure at less than 2,000.

Northwest Assembly Resolution Condemns Rally

BK2211145392 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] In Peshawar, the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] assembly today adopted a resolution, condemning the PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] demonstrations and reposing full confidence in the government. The resolution, moved by Mr. Ghafoor Khan Jadoon, was passed with majority vote. The resolution condemned the undemocratic, unconstitutional, and unethical call by the PDA. Reposing full confidence on the government, the house expressed its support for all security measures taken for the safety of the life and property of the public.

Minister Says Disturbing Peace Not Allowed

BK2211164292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain reiterated that the government welcomes peaceful public meetings and demonstrations, but will not tolerate any activity which hampers public peace and tranquility. He was speaking on the admissibility of identical privilege motions for debate, which were on the temporary custody of three senators by Rawalpindi administration on Wednesday. The privilege motions were tabled in the house on Thursday by Mansoor Ahmad Gichki, Abdur Rahim Mantakhel, Hazir Hussain Ahmad, Mir Abdul Jabbar, Syed Abdullah Shah, Syed Iqbal Haider, and Ejazul Khan Jatoi.

The interior minister clarified that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the citizens and it has fulfilled its responsibility in taking comprehensive measures to maintain law and order in view of the appeal for protest demonstrations in Islamabad. He warned that in future also, the government will not allow anybody to take law in his hands and will take appropriate steps to maintain the sanctity of the law. The interior minister said People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] had prepared a plan to create massive riots and disturbances, but the government has the responsibility of dealing with the situation effectively.

Answering the points raised by the Senators in their speeches, the minister said the statements issued by the PDA leadership before Wednesday are clear proof that the aim of the appeal for protest demonstrations is to grab power by force. The government cannot grant permission for such illegal and undemocratic activities. Denying the arrest of the members of parliament, he said the members tried to incite and provoke the people at Committee Square in Rawalpindi as a result of which two rival groups started raising slogans against each other. Realizing that there was the possibility of clashes between the rival groups, three senators were taken into protective custody and were taken to a rest house for

some time. There was reasonable ground for filing charges against them, but the government did not do so in a spirit of goodwill.

The chairman reserved his ruling on the admissibility of the privilege motions for discussion. In a statement in the house, the minister for information and broadcasting said being a democratic government, the present government believes in maintaining freedom of the press and the protection of the rights of journalists in order to enable them to discharge their duties without any hindrance. He informed the house that three police officers have already been suspended for misbehaving with three journalists. Inquiries have been launched against the police officers concerned. He said once the inquiry is over, he himself will look into it and if they are found guilty, stringent action will be taken against them. He expressed the deep sympathies and regrets of the government over the incident. The information minister assured the working journalists that the police officers responsible for the incident will face charges against them irrespective of their status and position. Intervening, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad indicated that the Senate proceedings cannot be thought about without the participation of the working journalists and that they are discharging a tough job. He expressed the hope that the government will not excuse the officers responsible for this incident. He expressed confidence that the journalists will be satisfied with the statement of the information minister and the measures of the government.

Sharif Aide Rules Out Now Elections Before 1995

BK2111085792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the prime minister's special assistant, has ruled out the possibility of starting a dialogue with the People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] on holding fresh elections. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said the Constitution clearly states when such elections can be held. He described as unconstitutional the tactics adopted by the PDA to press for the holding of elections immediately. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan said the present government has come into power through a legal and constitutional process and can be changed only through constitutional means. He stated categorically that elections will be held only in 1995, when the present government completes its term. He said an impression is being created that by stopping the PDA's demonstration, the government has obstructed the democratic process; but, in fact, the government's step has proved that it's action was right in view of its obligation to protect the life and property of the people. He warned that whenever such efforts are made in future to destabilize democratic system in the country, the government will retaliate in the same manner. However, if the PDA takes one step toward a meaningful dialogue, the Islamic Democratic Alliance government will move 10 steps forward in this direction, he observed.

Sharif Says Government Not To Bow to Pressure

BK2111151492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister has said that his government firmly believes in decency and tolerance in politics and it will continue to work for promotion of democratic values in the country. He was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day seminar being held in Lahore on strengthening of democratic institutions in the country. The prime minister said enough time has been lost in politics of confrontation and now it was the need of the hour to make concerted efforts for national development. The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government has brought the nation on the road to economic self-reliance and now the country could not afford hindrance in the process of progress. He regretted that the opposition wanted to detract the nation from the goal of self-reliance by using indecent tactics. The prime minister said that the moves by the opposition could lead the country to destruction. He said the leader of the opposition was trying to destabilize the country. The government, he said, would not surrender to the pressure tactics. Radio Pakistan's Lahore representative says the seminar is being attended by a large number of political thinkers, scholars, and veteran journalists. It will suggest ways and means for strengthening democratic institutions and promoting a national democratic character.

Minister Discusses Commitment To Protect People

BK2011162392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Adbul Sattar Lalika, federal minister for information and broadcasting, has said the government granted permission earlier to political parties to hold rallies, processions, and meetings and will continue to do so, provided they are held peacefully and remain within the purview of the constitution. Speaking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said the government is determined to protect the lives and property of people against unconstitutional and unlawful tactics and all other threats of the political parties. He reiterated that the government has been keeping its doors open for talks on any issue with the opposition. He said the people are fully aware as to who wants to end confrontations and who is postponing dialogue to end conflicts, thereby harming national interests.

The information minister said that people now want peace and tranquility, prosperity, and progress, and they will not support those elements who want to destabilize the country. He said the government cannot be destabilized through illegal means such as the appeal of the People's Democratic Alliance for demonstrations, and such demonstrations will not (?help) the people and country. He said in the future as well, the government will effectively deal with any situation like the one created on Wednesday. There was no loss of life due to such effective steps of the government. He said the

national press is vested with the responsibility of playing an effective role in ending confrontation. He reiterated that the government fully believes in freedom of the press and assured that necessary action will be taken against anyone who is involved in terrorist activities against journalists in any part of the country.

Minister Dismisses Bhutto Call on Elections

BK2011165492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 20 (AFP)—The government Friday turned down opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's proposal to hold talks on a one-point agenda of fresh elections.

The condition "is unrealistic and not acceptable," a close aide of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told reporters.

Chaudhry Nisar Ali said the next elections would be held in accordance with the constitution at the end of the current assemblies five-year terms in 1995.

"The government's basic position is that if she is ready to talk she should say that her struggle against the government will be totally political," he said.

"By insisting to overthrow the government through street power, the opposition was inciting violence which cannot be tolerated by any government," Ali added.

Ali, who is also petroleum minister, rejected criticism that the government overreacted by using excessive force against the opposition campaign. Describing the government's response as reasonable and correct, he said it fulfilled its obligation to protect the life and property of the people and maintain law and order.

He said that Bhutto had no reason to agitate the public and as a result was unable to evoke popular sentiment against Sharif's government despite the fact that she led a major political party.

"Ninety-eight percent of the populace remained totally unmoved by her call," he added.

Bhutto, in a statement issued from her Karachi residence, vowed Friday to continue struggling for a change of government and fresh elections.

"Draconian repressive measures are being used to protect the corrupt government, but it cannot survive against the wrath of the people," the statement said.

Bhutto added that her banishment from Islamabad and arrests of her associates reflected the "nervousness" of the government.

Earlier, Nusrat Bhutto, mother of the opposition leader, said she had been mistreated during her detention in Punjab and was denied food for 24 hours.

Sri Lanka

Emergency Provisions Invoked; Forces on Alert

BK2311033692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the government has invoked tough emergency regulations. According to a statement issued by the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, these measures will be effective from today. It said the regulations require every household to furnish a list of all family inmates to the nearest police station. Non-compliance will be a punishable offense. The measure follows the killing of the Sri Lankan naval chief on Monday last and another attack by suspected militants on a police officer on Friday.

Security forces have been put on maximum alert in Colombo following intelligence reports apprehending more bomb attacks by the Tamil militants.

President Blames External Forces for Trouble

BK1411131592 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa says the government is making every effort to achieve economic independence, to enable people to live in self-reliance. Some external forces, however, are attempting to infringe on Sri Lanka's sovereignity by bribing certain local traitors to act as their puppets. The president expressed these views while addressing a rally, which followed the inauguration of the new factory at Veeraketiya last evening. He noted that the government with its pragmatic economic policies has been able to win the confidence of the international commmunity, which values the tolerance of Sri Lankan youths. The Janasaviya [welfare] program gives recognition to the talents of the poorer sector. The government, in its programs to improve the lot of people, does not consider caste, party or any other differences. But, certain elements are trying to create chaos in the country by using party politics. The opposition, observed the president, has failed to put forward a clear policy. This government is trying to end the era of the elite through compassion. He said the JVP [Janatha Vimukhthi Peramuna], however, tried to achieve this objective through terror. He noted that certain elements, who started pada yatra and road yatra [marches to press for demands], are now planning to hold hands in protest. Holding another's hand should give them strength, but, the organizers of the human chain campaign have never given the common man any strength. President Premadasa recalled the injustices of earlier Socialist regime. One hundred thousand rural youths will be employed with a minimum salary of 2,000 rupees per month under

the garment factories program before the end of this year. He reiterated that 200 garment factories will definitely be functional next year. The president disclosed that he will personally inspect the work of divisional secretariat from next January. This program will help ease the cost of living. He said that he had issued instructions to convert the Veerakatiya Central Medical Clinic and Maternity Home into a base hospital.